

# The War in the Pacific 3

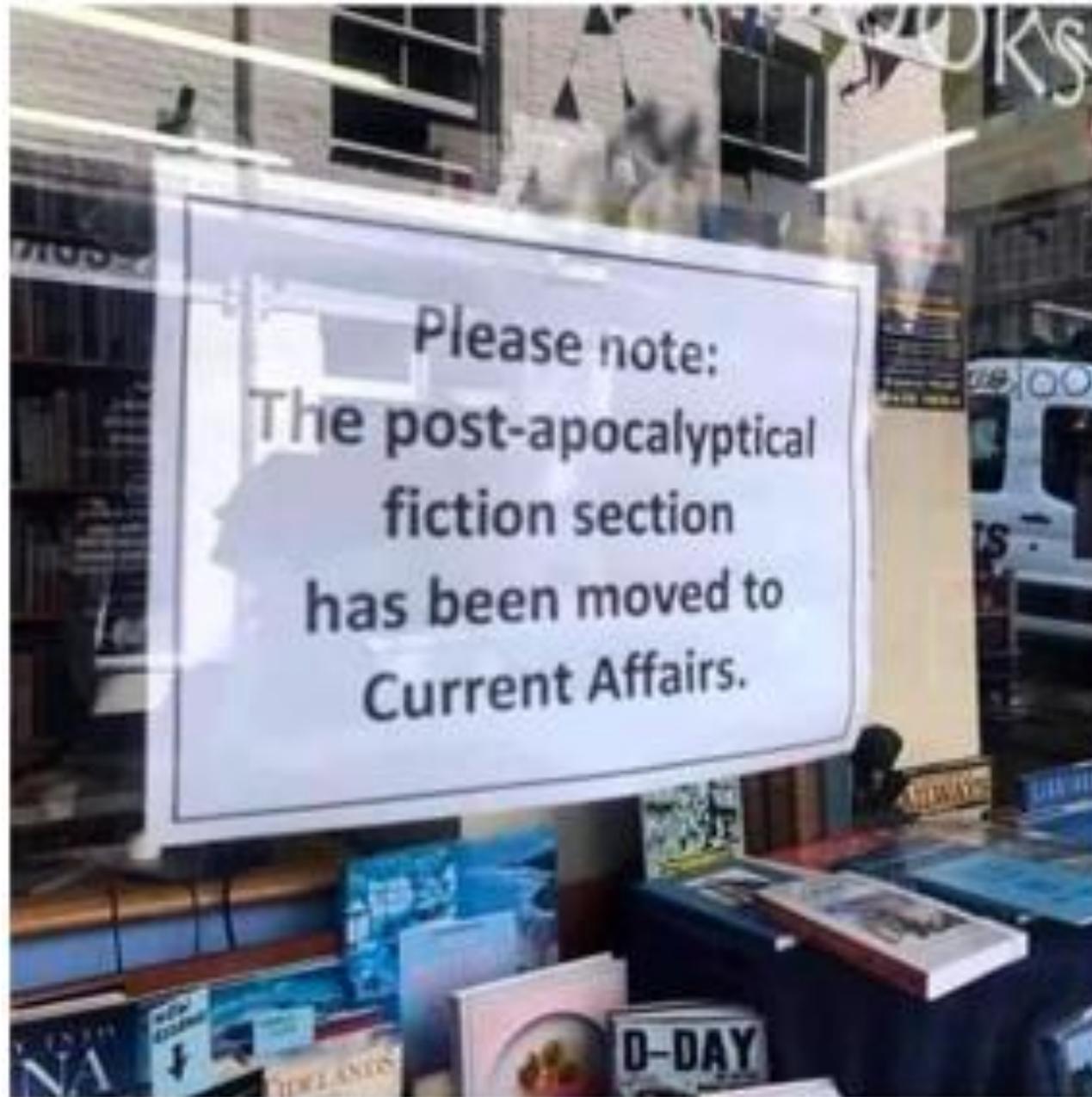
## From Lae to Tokyo Bay

5

New Georgia secured  
Landing at Lae

First Steps in the Central Pacific



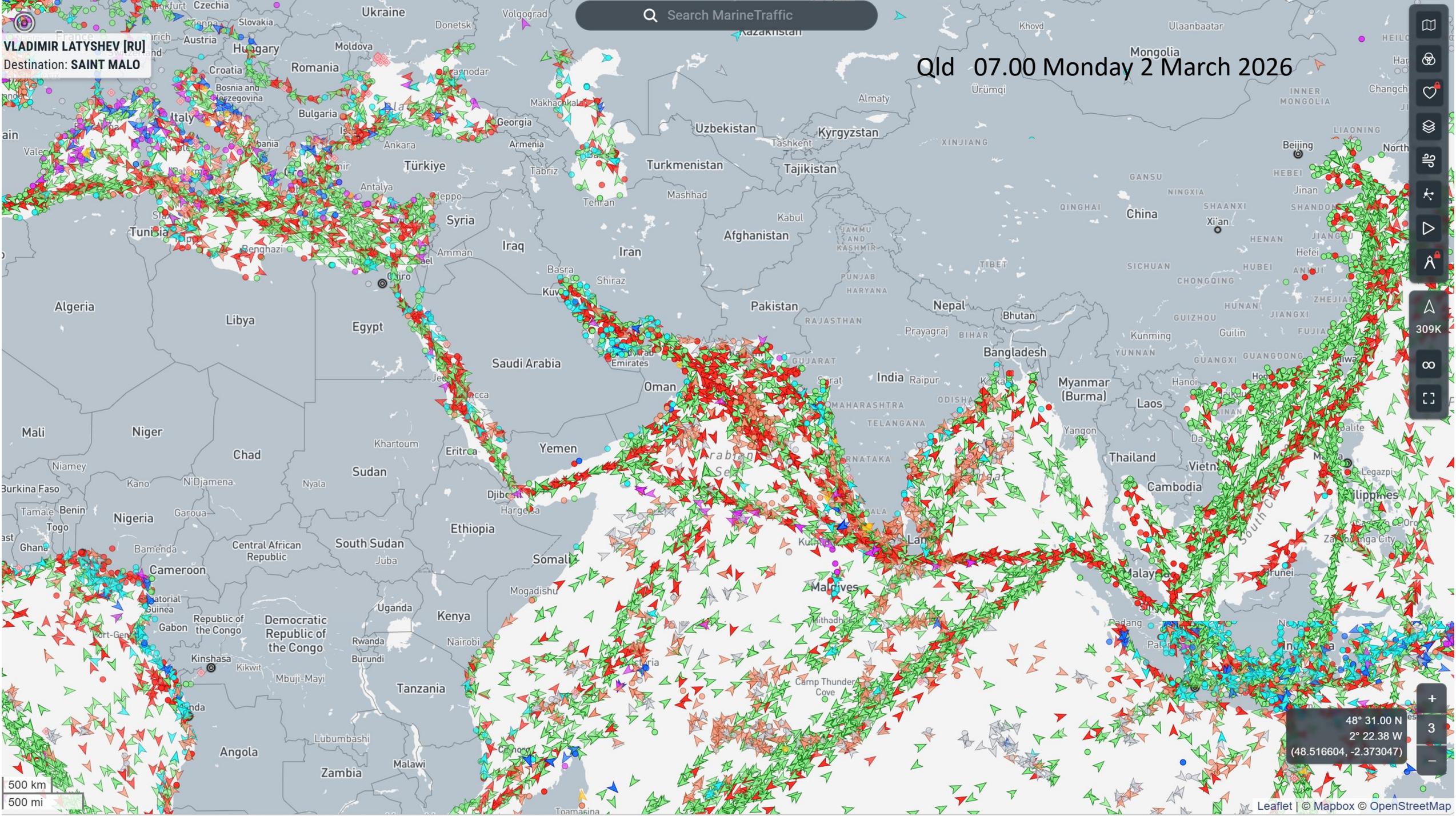


Putin's Wars - ©Jerry McBrien - October 2022

**VLADIMIR LATYSHEV [RU]**  
Destination: SAINT MALO

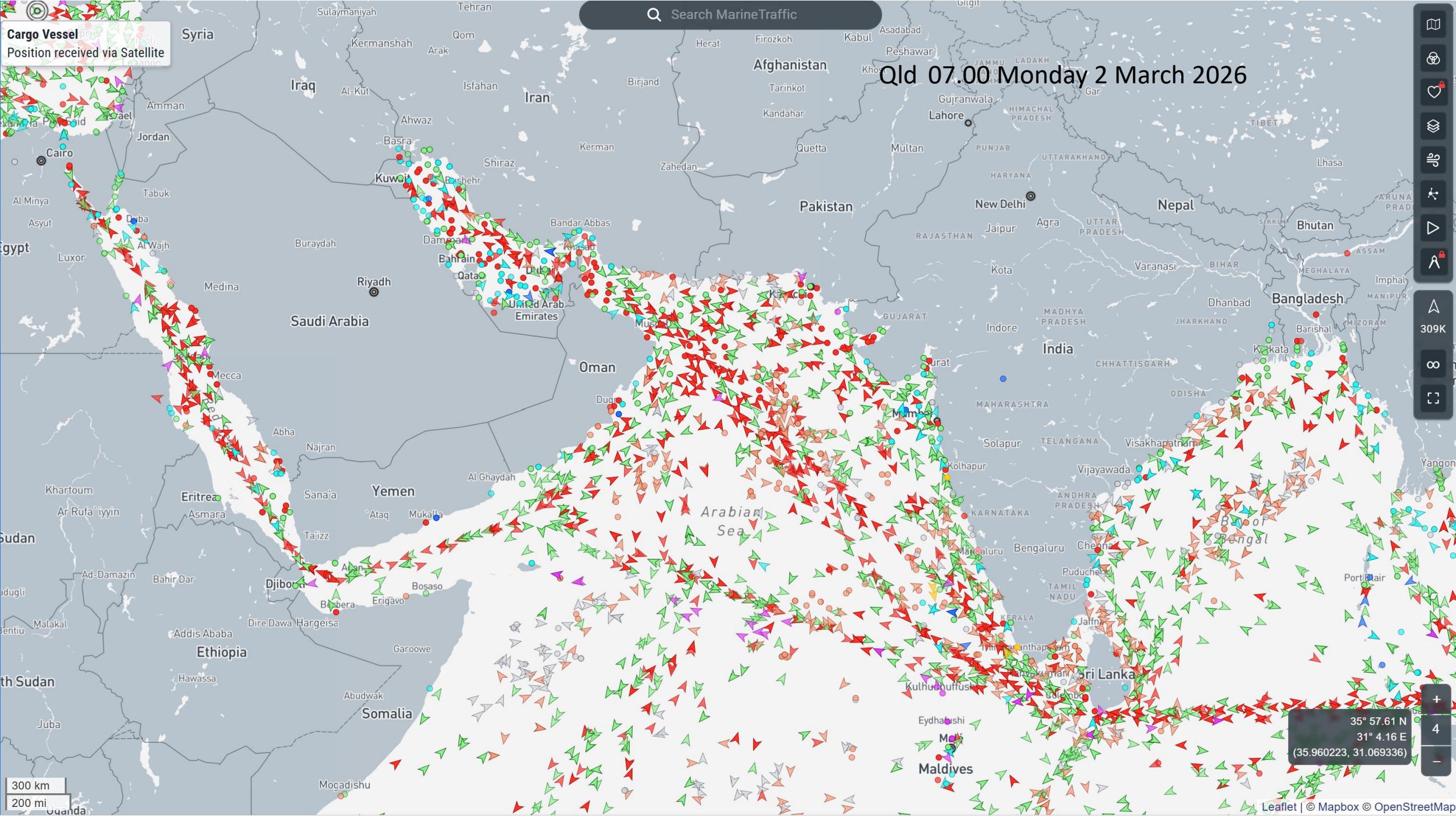
Search MarineTraffic

Qld 07.00 Monday 2 March 2026



Map navigation controls including a search bar, a heart icon, a home icon, a compass icon, a zoom in (+) button, a zoom out (-) button, a full screen icon, and a scale indicator showing 309K.

Map navigation controls including a zoom in (+) button, a zoom out (-) button, and a scale indicator showing 3.



Cargo Vessel  
Position received via Satellite

Search MarineTraffic

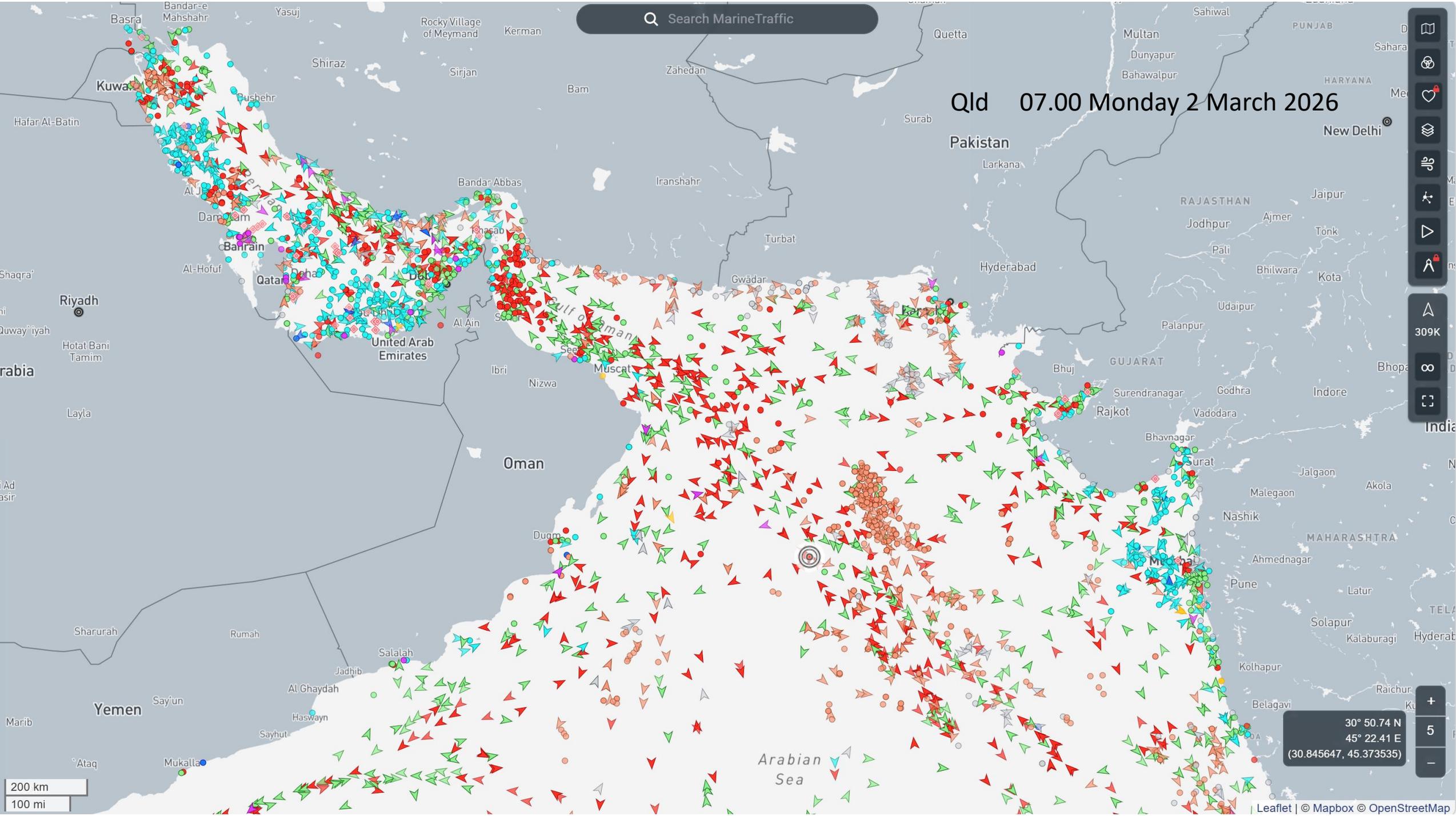
Qld 07.00 Monday 2 March 2026

300 km  
200 mi

35° 57.61 N  
31° 4.16 E  
(35.960223, 31.069336)

Search MarineTraffic

Qld 07.00 Monday 2 March 2026



309K

∞

☰

India

N

C

TELA

Hyderab

Kolhapur

Belagavi

Raichur

Ku

+

5

-

30° 50.74 N  
45° 22.41 E  
(30.845647, 45.373535)

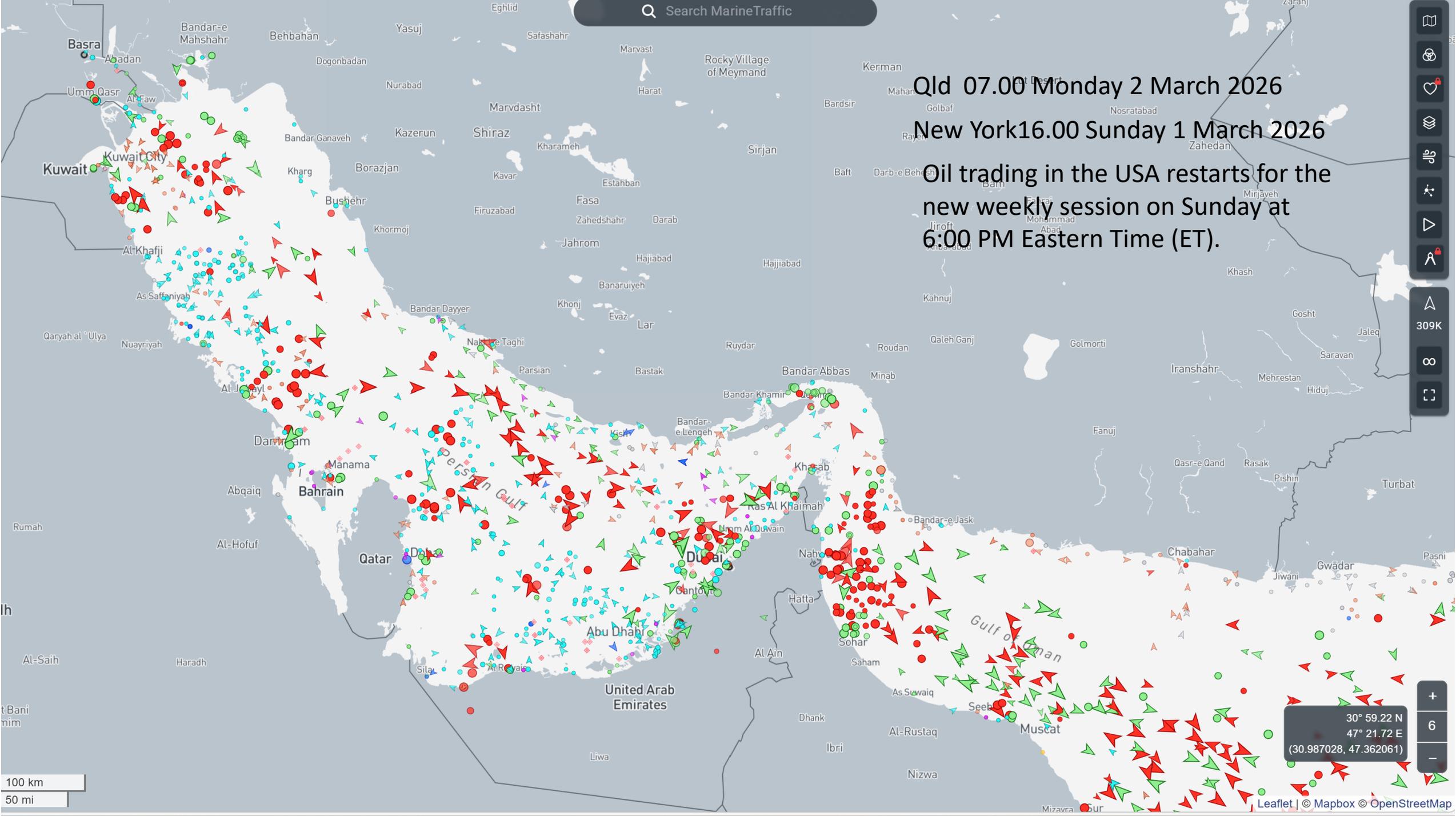
Leaflet | © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

200 km  
100 mi

Qld 07.00 Monday 2 March 2026

New York 16.00 Sunday 1 March 2026

Oil trading in the USA restarts for the new weekly session on Sunday at 6:00 PM Eastern Time (ET).



Map navigation controls including a search bar, home button, heart icon, layers icon, compass, and zoom controls. The zoom level is set to 309K.

Map navigation controls including a search bar, home button, heart icon, layers icon, compass, and zoom controls. The zoom level is set to 6. A coordinate box shows the current location: 30° 59.22 N, 47° 21.72 E (30.987028, 47.362061).

100 km  
50 mi

# The Straits of Hormuz

- At least three ships have been attacked near the Strait of Hormuz, as Iran continues to launch strikes across the Middle East in response to an ongoing attack against it by the US and Israel.
- Two vessels have been struck, and an "unknown projectile" was reported to have "exploded in very close proximity" to a third, the UK Maritime Trade Operations Centre (UKMTO) said.
- Iran has warned ships not to pass through the strait, which carries about 20% of the world's oil and gas.
- International shipping has almost come to a standstill at the strait's entrance, with fears of disruption already pushing up global oil prices.
- Source BBC downloaded 07.30 2/3/26 Qld



The Starlight burns after reported drone attack by Iran amid reprisals for Khamenei's death

# Iranian weaponry

- Iranian developed and built drones have been used by Russia in the Ukraine war since 2023.
- At least 6,000 are known to have been sold to Russia.
- Range 2,500 kms, 50 kg warhead.
- Production cost has been estimated in the \$20k to \$50k range. Could be lower as volumes increase.
- It may be quite difficult to suppress production.



Shahed 136 drone 3 metres \* 2.5 metres

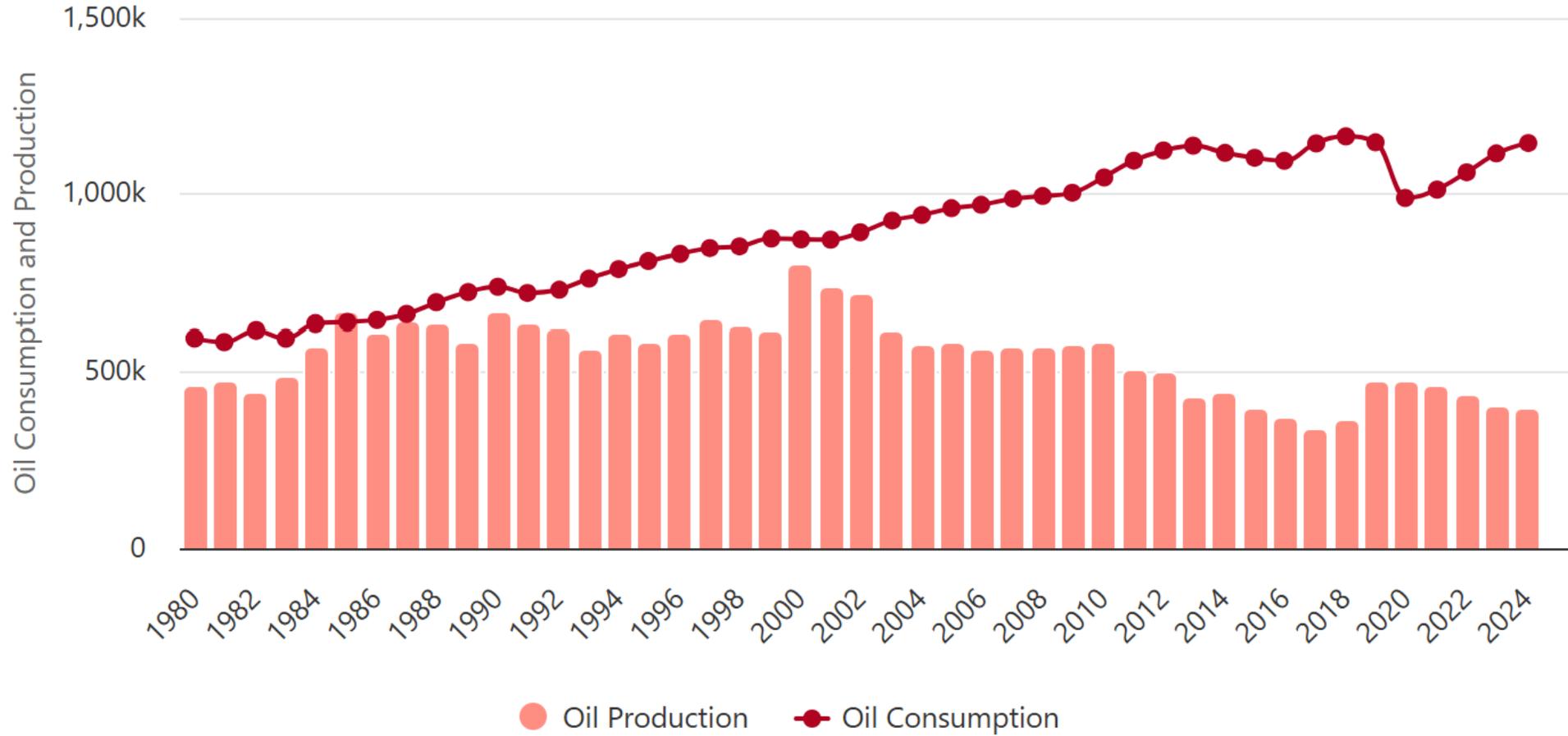
# Oil Price History

- The Oil Shocks in the 1970s were caused by the actions of Iran after the fall of the Shah and America's reactions to them.
- In 1973 the price of oil quadrupled from \$3 to \$12.
- In 1979 oil increased 2 and a half times from \$12 to \$30.
- Both of these oil shocks caused world wide recessions and inflation (Stagflation).



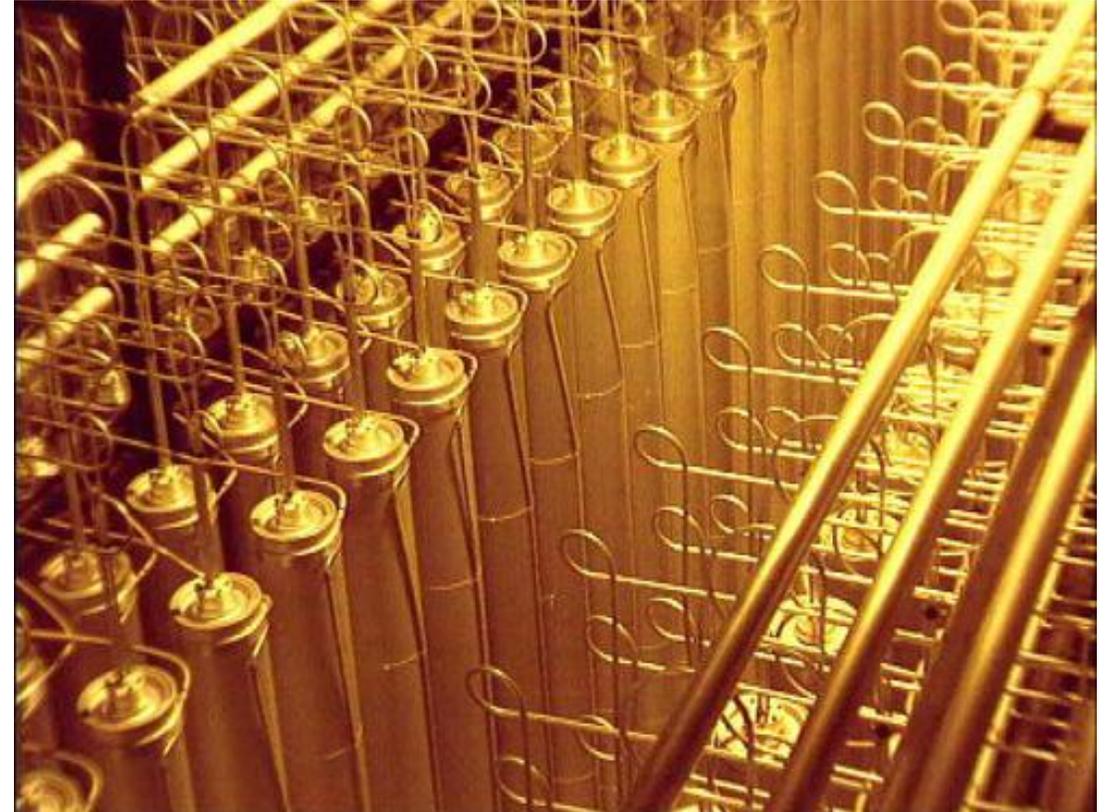
# Australia Oil Consumption and Production (barrels per day)

Barrels per day (B/d)



# Uranium Enrichment

- We have seen that the Manhattan Project was unable to make the centrifugal enrichment process viable in 1942 and that they would have required more than 50,000 centrifuges.
- Since then centrifuges have become the main enrichment method.
- As of mid-2025, Iran had roughly 21,900 total installed centrifuges across its Natanz and Fordow enrichment sites, including nearly 14,689 advanced models. While older, less efficient IR-1 machines still exist, the majority of Iran's enrichment capacity is driven by advanced centrifuges, with total installed capacity at about 64,000 swu (separative work units) /year.
- As an example 62 swu could produce 10 kgs of low enriched uranium at 4.5% U235 from 100 kgs of natural uranium per year.
- Obliterating all these centrifuges must have spread a great deal of UF6 around.



A bank of centrifuges at a Urenco plant



# To Return to History

# 8 July 1943 - Sea

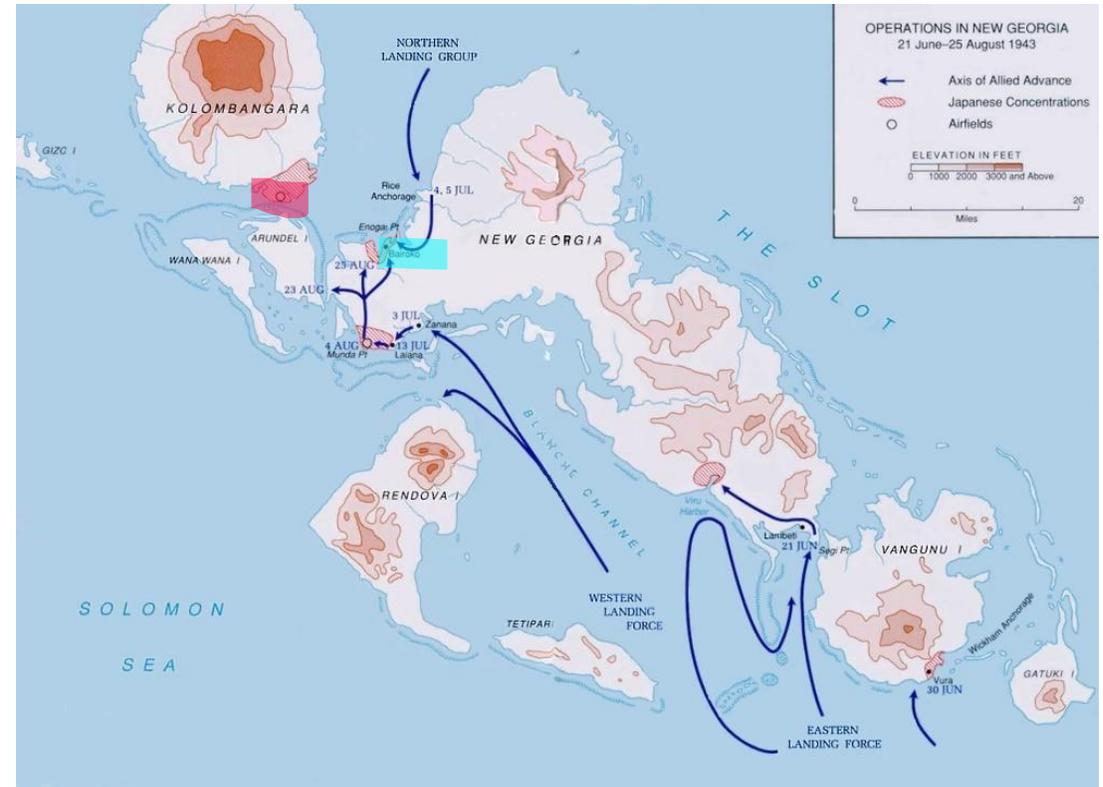
- USS Casablanca was launched on 5 April 1943 and commissioned on 8 July 1943.
- She was the first of a class of 50 escort carriers built by the Kaiser Shipbuilding Company's Vancouver Yard on the Columbia River in Vancouver, Washington.
- Casablanca was the first class to be designed from keel up as an escort carrier. It had a larger and more useful hangar deck than previous conversions. It also had a larger flight deck than the Bogue class but fighters were still limited to smaller and lighter aircraft such as the Grumman F4F Wildcat.
- 24 more Casablanca class carriers were launched before the end of the year.



USS Guadalcanal,

# 12/13 July 1943 – New Georgia

- The Japanese brought reinforcements by barge from Vila to Bairoko, and 1,200 more troops were loaded onto four destroyer-transports at Rabaul and sent down to be landed at Vila on the night of 12–13 July escorted by a light cruiser and five destroyers.
- The movement of Japanese ships was detected and reported by Allied coastwatchers. In response Halsey ordered Ainsworth to intercept.



# 12/13 July 1943 - Sea

- Ainsworth was sent to intercept this flotilla with three light cruisers, USS Honolulu and St. Louis and HMNZS Leander and ten US destroyers.
- He encountered the Japanese force in The Slot north of Kolombangara.
- Ainsworth assumed he had a complete surprise as the Japanese lacked radar, but the Japanese had been aware of the Allied force for almost two hours.
- Despite not possessing radar, the Japanese ships could detect the Allied radar systems and were able to gain an accurate plot of Ainsworth's dispositions.
- After sighting the Japanese force at 01:03, the U.S. destroyers increased speed to engage the Japanese force with their torpedoes while the cruisers turned to deploy their main batteries and engage to starboard.
- Unknown to Ainsworth, the Japanese destroyers had already launched Long Lance torpedoes, which had a longer range than the Allied torpedoes. After firing their salvos between 01:08 and 01:14, the Japanese destroyers turned away to regroup.
- The first U.S. torpedoes hit the water about a minute after their Japanese counterparts, with Nicholas engaging a Japanese cruiser at a range of just under 10,000 yards. The cruiser turned on her searchlight and engaged the Allied ships but was subjected to concentrated Allied fire from a range of around 9,000 yards, with 2,630 rounds being fired.



The Japanese cruiser was heavily damaged, it came to a dead stop, was reduced to a wreck, broken in two by several torpedo hits, and sank at about 01:45.

# 12/13 July 1943 - Sea

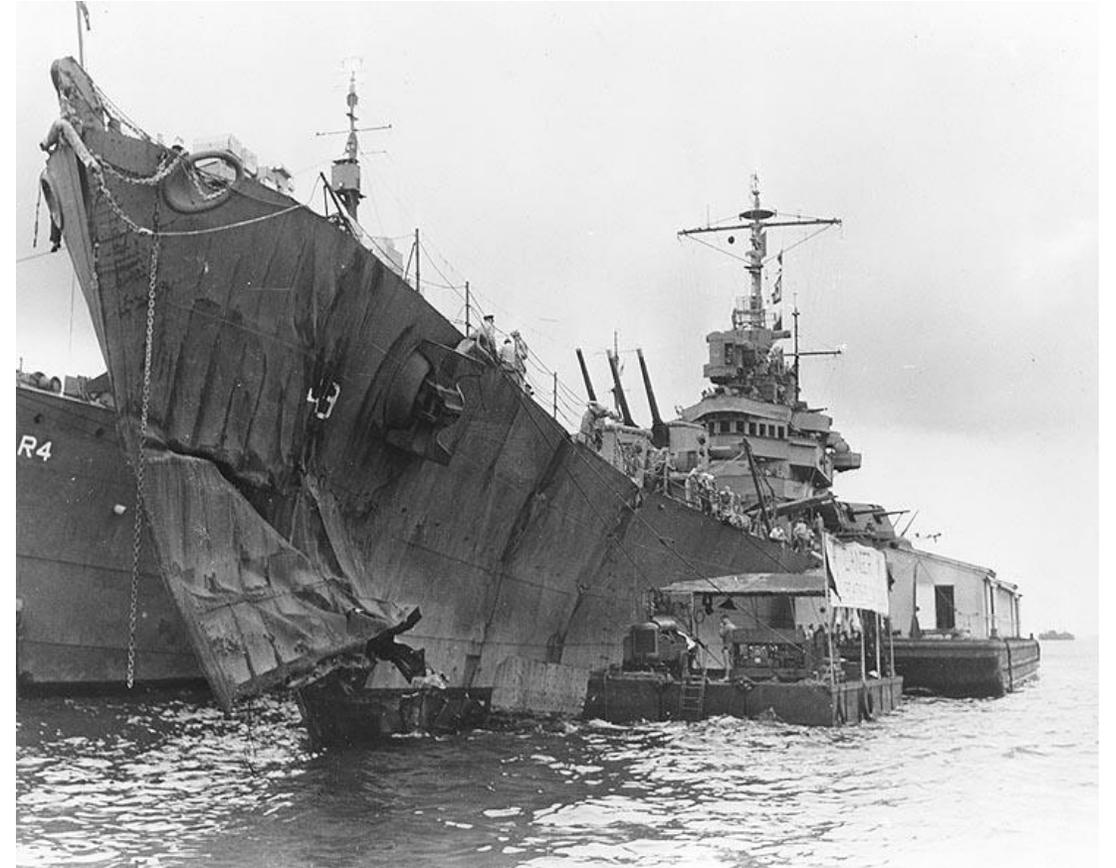
- Leander was hit by a shell. The damage was light but severed radio communications.
- Several Japanese torpedoes were spotted, and the Allied ships began evasive action.
- These counter-maneuvers were hampered by faulty communications and thick gunsmoke that reduced visibility.
- Consequently, several ships turned wide to avoid collisions, including Leander which was struck by one of the Japanese torpedoes.
- Severely damaged, the New Zealand cruiser retired from the battle escorted by Radford and Jenkins. She was first repaired in Auckland, then proceeded to a full refit in Boston.
- 26 crew from the boiler room and the No.1 4-inch gun mount immediately above were killed or posted missing.



HMAS Sydney, sister ship to Leander.

# 12/13 July 1943 - Sea

- Radar contact was reestablished at 01:56, but there was uncertainty about the identity of the ships.
- Believing that they may have been McInerney's destroyers, the U.S. ships held their fire while they sought to confirm the location of three detached destroyers.
- At 02:03, starshells were fired to illuminate the contacts that had begun to withdraw. Shortly afterward, Ainsworth deployed his ships to begin firing with their main batteries, maneuvering to starboard.
- In the process, they moved into the path of torpedoes that had been fired by the Japanese destroyers before turning away. St. Louis and Honolulu were both struck by torpedoes and damaged, although this was not mortal.
- The destroyer Ralph Talbot managed to reply with a salvo of four torpedoes, but these failed to hit.
- A minute later the destroyer Gwin was struck by a torpedo amidships, inflicting heavy damage. Despite efforts to save the ship, Gwin was scuttled at 09:30. A total of 61 men were killed on Gwin. Its surviving crew were subsequently evacuated on Ralph Talbot.



St Louis at Tulagi after being torpedoed during the battle

# 12/13 July 1943 - Sea

- The Japanese force escaped damage. After withdrawing along the coast, the four destroyer transports had diverted through the Vella Gulf and successfully landed 1,200 men at Sandfly Harbor on the western coast of Kolombangara.
- The Japanese had won a tactical victory and had demonstrated that they possessed superior night-fighting techniques.



# 15 July – New Georgia

- Major General Griswold, commander XIV Corps and General Hester's immediate superior, visited New Georgia in mid-July and assessed the situation as dire.
- He radioed Halsey at Nouméa that at least another division was needed to break the stalemate.
- Lieutenant General Harmon of the United States Army, South Pacific was sent to confirm the situation.
- After an investigation, Harmon gave field command to Griswold so that Hester could concentrate on leading his own division.
- At the same time, a long-anticipated change in naval command took place with Rear Admiral Wilkinson (photo) taking over leadership of the amphibious forces from Turner on 15 July.



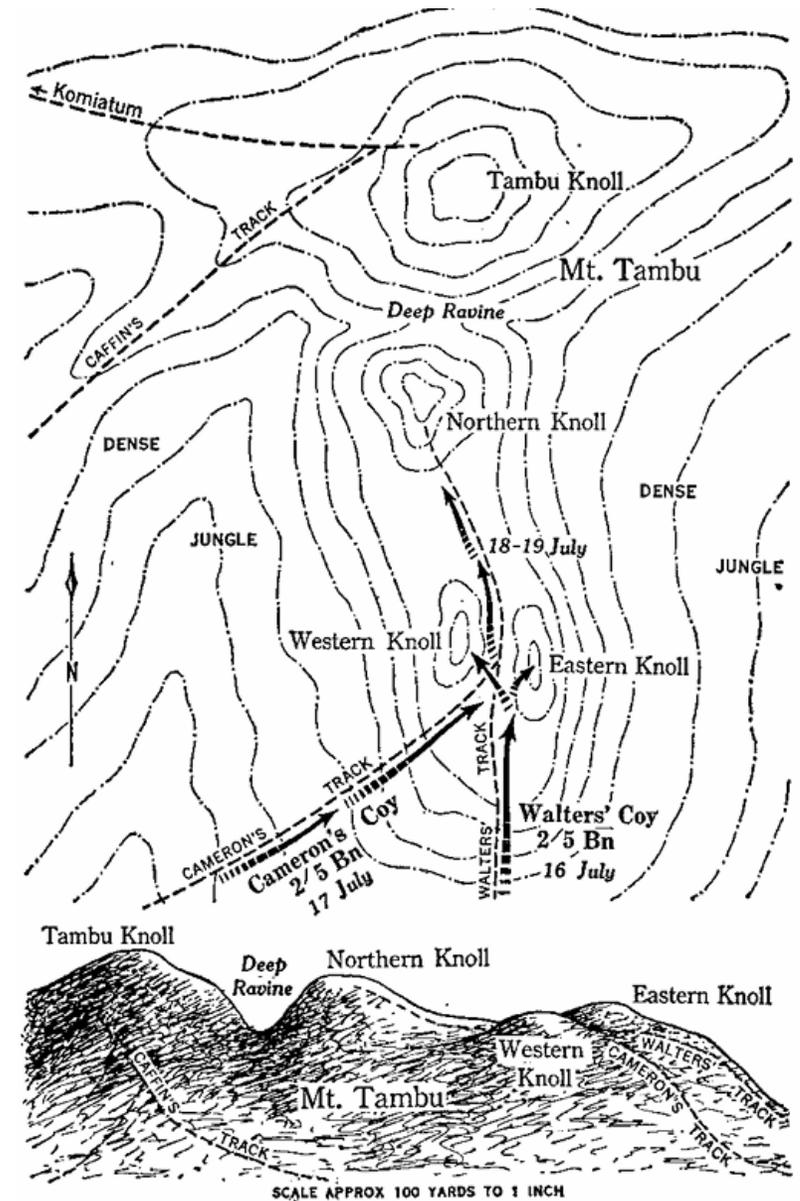
# Mid July – New Guinea

- In mid-July, the advancing US troops came up against strong Japanese defenses positioned on a ridge overlooking the bay.
- This ridge, which provided good observation of Tambu Bay, allowing the Japanese to fire artillery down on to the landing beaches, was later named Roosevelt Ridge by the Americans, after Major Archibald Roosevelt, the commander of the 3rd Battalion of the 162nd.
- The Battle of Roosevelt Ridge was subsequently fought between mid-July and mid-August, concurrently with actions to finally capture the village of Mubo and seize Mount Tambu.
- Photo: Archibald Bulloch Roosevelt, the fifth child of U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt, as a Lieutenant Colonel



# 16 July – New Guinea

- Between 16 July and 19 August, the 42nd and 2/5th Infantry Battalions gained a foothold on Mount Tambu.
- They held on despite fierce Japanese counter-attacks. The battle turned when they were assisted by the 162nd RCT.



# July – New Guinea

- Throughout July, the Japanese sought to reinforce the Salamaua area, drawing troops away from Lae; by the end of the month there were around 8,000 Japanese around Salamaua



# Mid July – S.W. Pacific

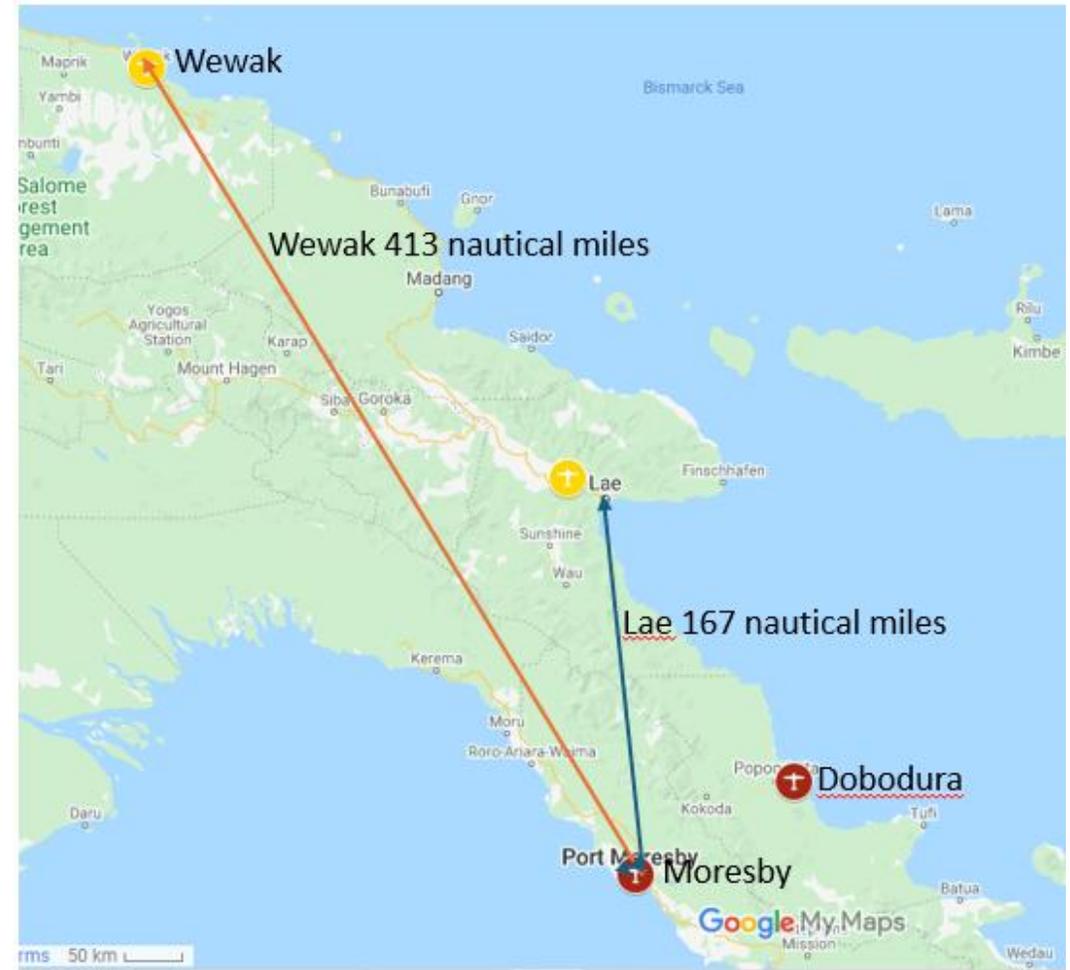
- The increases in Allied strength that had been promised to the Southwest Pacific Area at the Pacific Military Conference in March had been coming through practically on schedule.
- Bomber strength, too, was increasing. Newly arrived B-24's of the 380th Heavy Bombardment Group went into action from Darwin, Australia, in mid-July.
- General Arnold was working to standardise Kenney's 5<sup>th</sup> Airforce on P47 fighters and B24 bombers and the 8<sup>th</sup> Airforce in Britain on P38 fighters and B17 bombers. Standardisation is a good thing but it is difficult to avoid the belief that Arnold was saving the best for the European theatre.



B-24Ds in formation.

# July – New Guinea

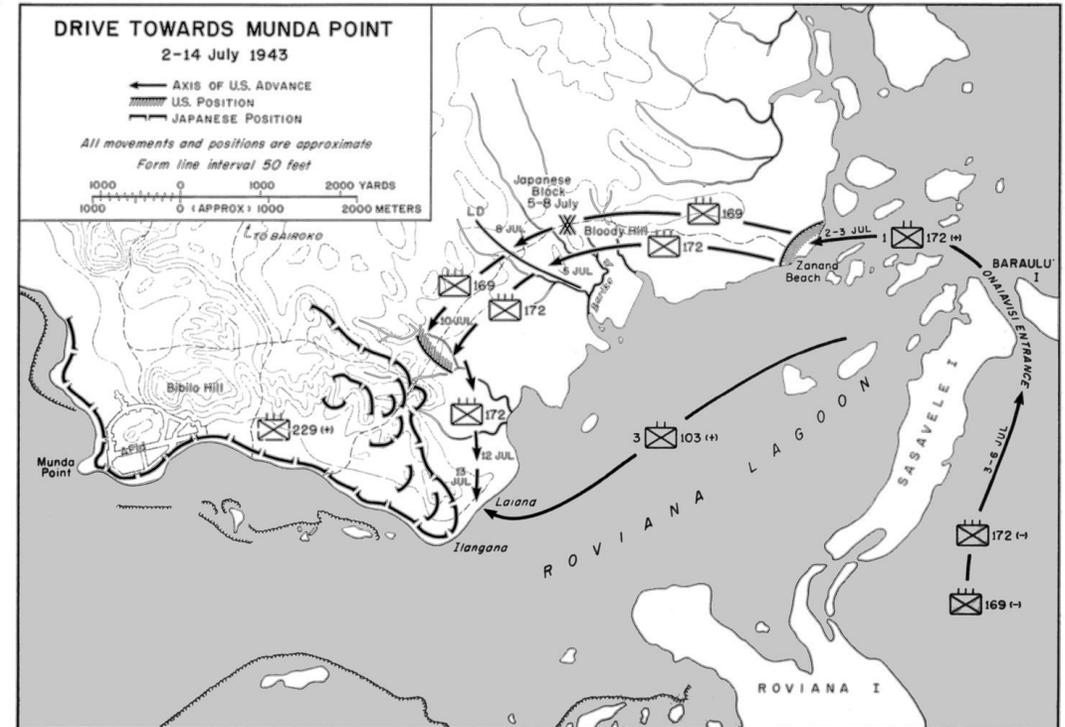
- Nearly every day of July saw some form of air attack against the Lae-Salamaua area.
- Sorties during the month totalled 400 by B-25's, 100 by B-24's, 45 by RAAF Bostons, 35 by A-20's, 30 by B-17's, and 7 by B-26's.
- The Japanese supply point at Madang was also raided during the period 20-23 July by B-25's and heavy bombers.
- But these raids were secondary to Kenney's main objective, which was Wewak. He was aware of the increase in Japanese air strength at Wewak but there were too many Japanese fighters at Wewak for Kenney to risk sending unescorted bombers there.
- Raids against Wewak had to await completion of the Tsili Tsili staging field, which would extend the range of Allied fighters to Wewak.
- Meanwhile Kenney ordered his bombers not to go as far as Wewak leaving the Japanese with a false sense of security that Wewak lay beyond bomber range.



NB you cannot actually fly as the crow flies across New Guinea.

# 17 July – New Georgia

- On the night of 17 July, the Japanese launched a strong counterattack and succeeded in overrunning the command post of the 43rd Division near Zanana.



MAP 9

F. Temple

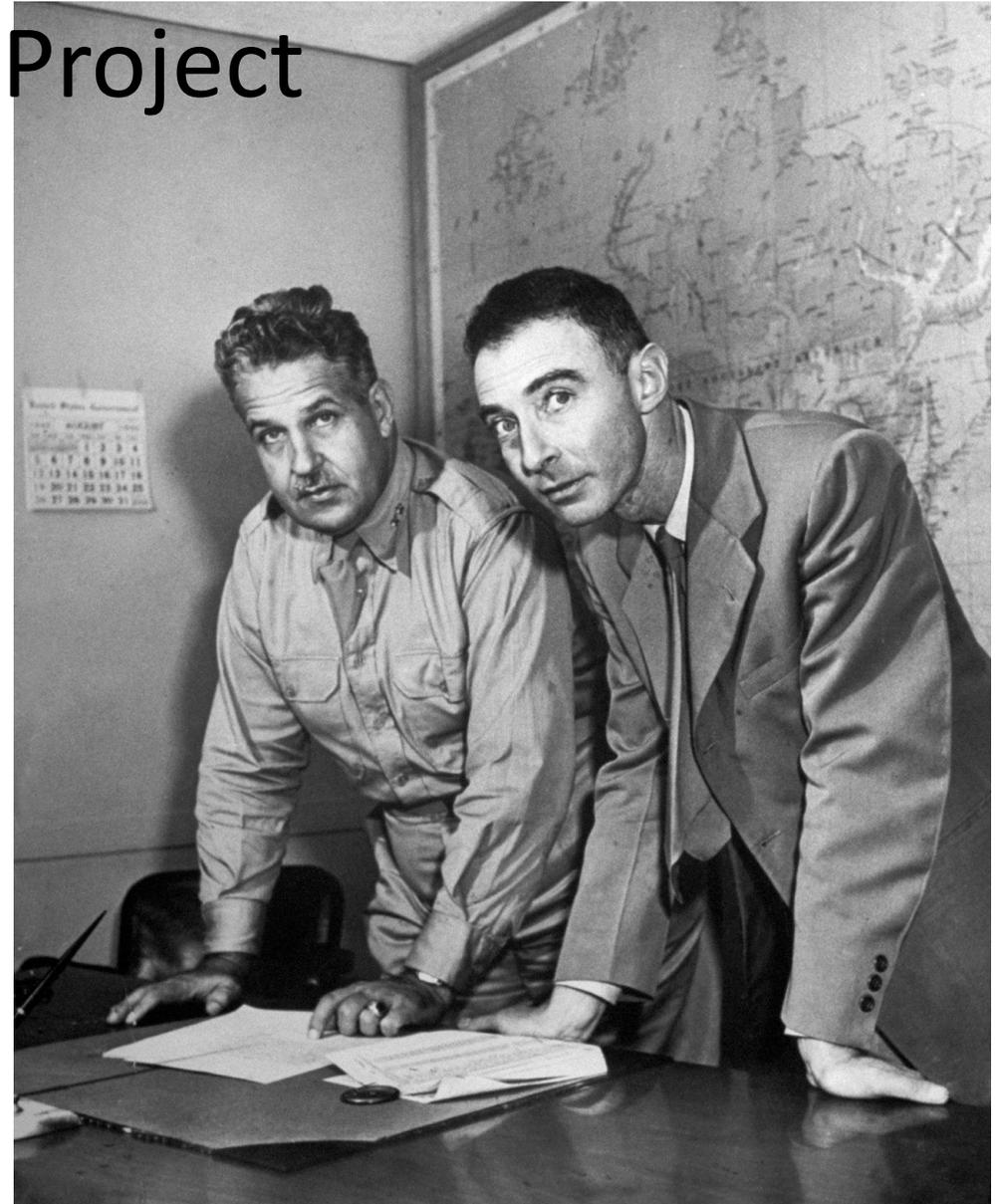
# 19/20 July 1943 – New Georgia

- On the night of 19/20 July a force of 11 Japanese ships, consisting of cruisers and destroyers, was detected by U.S. aircraft in The Slot.
- At least one destroyer was sunk, and a cruiser Kumano was damaged, while four U.S. aircraft were lost.
- After this, the Japanese chose to use the Vella Gulf and the Blakett Strait along the western coast of Kolombangara rather than the direct route through the Kula Gulf.



# 20 July 1943 – Manhattan Project

- One of Groves' early problems was to find a director for Project Y, the group that would design and build the bomb.
- The obvious choice was one of the three laboratory heads, Urey, Lawrence, or Arthur Compton, but they could not be spared.
- Compton recommended Oppenheimer, who was already intimately familiar with the bomb design concepts.
- However, Oppenheimer had little administrative experience, and, unlike Urey, Lawrence, and Compton, had not won a Nobel Prize, which many scientists felt that the head of such an important laboratory should have.
- There were also concerns about Oppenheimer's security status, as many of his associates were communists, including his wife, Kitty; his girlfriend, Jean Tatlock; and his brother, Frank.
- A long conversation in October 1942 convinced Groves and Nichols that Oppenheimer thoroughly understood the issues involved in setting up a laboratory in a remote area and should be appointed as its director.
- Groves personally waived the security requirements and issued Oppenheimer's clearance on 20 July 1943.
- Photo: Leslie Groves, military head of the Manhattan Project, with Oppenheimer in 1942



# 20 July 1943 – Central Pacific

- To set up forward air bases capable of supporting operations across the Central Pacific, to the Philippines, and toward Japan itself, the U.S. planned to take the Mariana Islands.
- The Marianas were heavily defended.
- Naval doctrine of the time held that in order for amphibious landings to succeed, land-based aircraft would be required to weaken defenses and protect the invasion forces on the islands being invaded.
- The nearest islands capable of supporting such an American effort on the Marianas were the Marshall Islands. Taking the Marshalls would provide the base needed to launch an offensive on the Marianas, but the Marshalls were cut off from direct communications with Hawaii by a Japanese garrison and air base on the small island of Betio, on the western side of the atoll of Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands.
- In order to eventually launch an invasion of the Marianas the Japanese garrison and airfield on Tarawa would first need to be neutralized.
- On 20 July 1943, the Joint Chiefs of Staff directed Admiral Chester W. Nimitz to prepare plans for an offensive operation in the Gilbert Islands.



# 20 July 1943

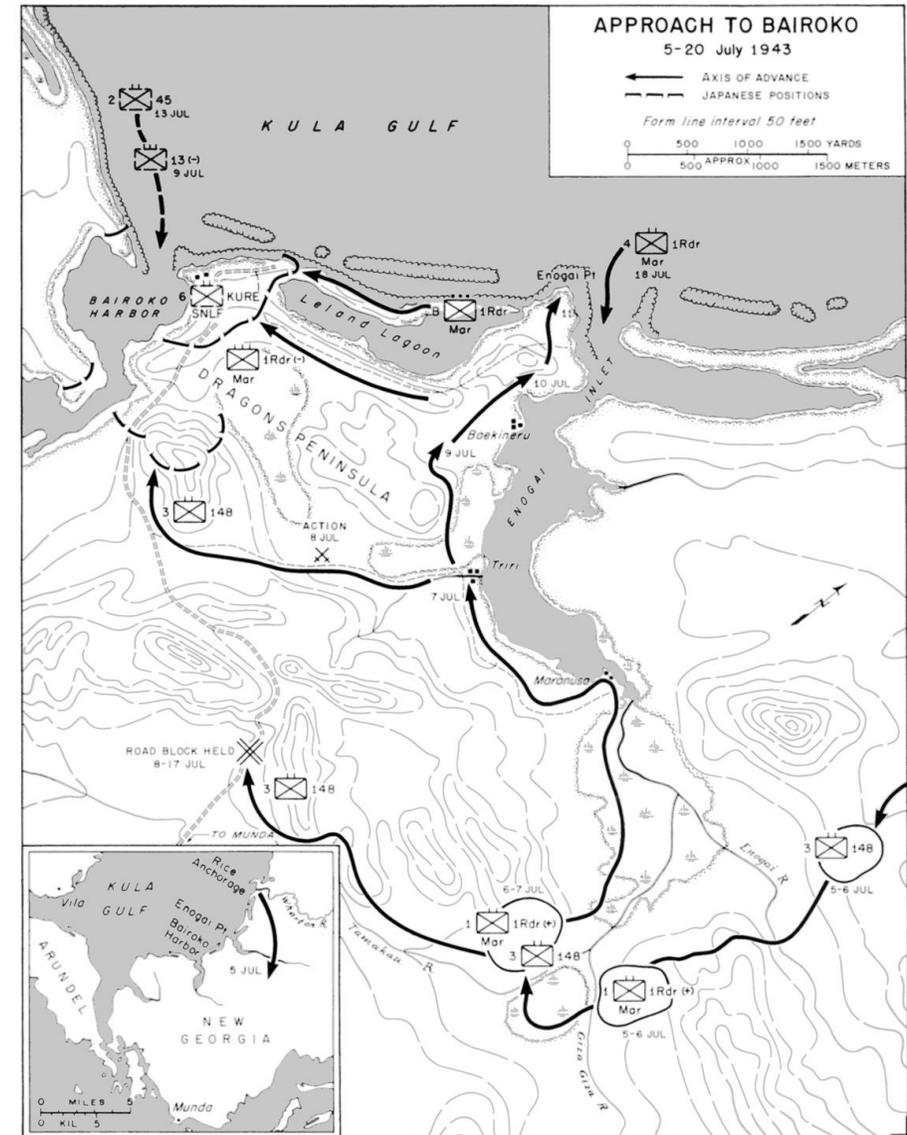
- On the evening of 20 July 1943, while sailing to Espiritu Santo as part of Task Force 74, HMAS Hobart was torpedoed.
- The torpedo struck the port quarter. The damage included significant structural damage around the wardroom, and the loss of electricity supply and steering control.
- Thirteen of the crew were killed and another seven injured.
- No submarine was detected prior to or after the attack.
- After electrical power and steering were restored, the cruiser limped to Espiritu Santo under the escort of USS Nicholas and Radford for temporary repairs, then sailed for Australia on 21 August escorted by Arunta and Warramunga.
- Hobart arrived in Sydney on 26 August and was docked at Cockatoo Island Dockyard for repairs and refurbishment; the damage meant that she was out of service until 1945.



*(R.A.N. Historical Section)*  
H.M.A.S. *Hobart*, showing damage sustained to quarter-deck and after turrets from a torpedo hit on 20th July 1943.

# 22 July – New Georgia

- On the northern front, Liversedge's Marines consolidated their position around Enogai after 12 July and began patrolling the local area while US Army troops occupied the blocking position.
- This was subsequently abandoned on 17 July, and the soldiers returned to Triri.
- He had been reinforced by 700 Marines from the 4th Raider Battalion and made plans to capture Bairoko village, on the eastern side of Bairoko Harbor, on 20 July.
- His Army detachment was to attack the village from the southeast while his Marines converged from the northeast, a classic pincer movement. But the Japanese defensive positions were well designed and had been reinforced since the initial US landing at the Rice Anchorage;
- as a result, neither force made any progress, and US casualties began to mount. Just before dawn on 22 July, Liversedge called for air strikes to cover his withdrawal.



MAP 8

# 24 July 1943 - Torpedoes

- Daspit in USS Tinosa carefully documented his efforts to sink a 19,000-ton whale factory ship Tonan Maru III on 24 July 1943.
- He fired four torpedoes from 4,000 yd; two hit, stopping the target dead in the water. Daspit immediately fired another two; these hit as well.
- With no enemy anti-submarine combatants in sight, Daspit then took time to carefully maneuver into a textbook firing position, 875 yd square off the target's beam, where he fired nine more Mark 14s and observed all with his periscope (despite the Japanese firing at it).
- All were duds. Daspit, suspicious by now he was working with a faulty production run of Mark 14s, saved his last remaining torpedo to be analyzed by experts back at base. Nothing out of the ordinary was found.



Lawrence Randall (Dan) Daspit, USN

# 25 July 1943 - Mediterranean

- Operation Husky, the Allied invasion of Sicily, began on the night of 9–10 July 1943 with a large amphibious and airborne operation
- The conspirators devised an "Order of the Day" for the next meeting of the Grand Council of Fascism which contained a proposal to restore direct control of politics to the King.
- After the Council, held on 25 July 1943, a majority vote adopted the "order of the day", and Mussolini was then summoned to meet the King and was dismissed as prime minister.
- Upon leaving the meeting, Mussolini was arrested by the carabinieri and spirited off to the island of Ponza.
- Badoglio became President of the Council of Ministers or the Prime Minister of Italy.
- After a six-week land campaign the last German/Italian forces evacuated Sicily on 17 August.



Map of Allied and Axis dispositions on 10 July 1943

# 31 July – New Georgia

- Halsey had earlier seen the wisdom of bypassing the heavily fortified island of Kolombangara and invading Vella Lavella instead, since Vella Lavella lay closer to Bougainville and Rabaul and was less well defended.
- Thus, a month before New Georgia was secured by the Allies, they landed a reconnaissance party on Vella Lavella to gain information about Japanese strength and dispositions as well as about suitable landing sites, before returning to Guadalcanal on 31 July.



Admirals Nimitz (l) and Halsey (r) discuss South Pacific strategy in early 1943.

# July 1943 - Manhattan Project

- July: The president proclaims Los Alamos, Clinton Engineer Works (CEW) (Oak Ridge) and Hanford Engineer Works (HEW) as military districts. The Governor of Tennessee Prentice Cooper (photo) was officially handed the proclamation making Oak Ridge a military district not subject to state control by a junior officer (a lieutenant) he tore it up and refused to see the MED District Engineer Lt-Col James C. Marshall.
- The new District Engineer Kenneth Nichols had to placate him.
- July 10: First sample of plutonium arrives at Los Alamos.



# July – S.W. Pacific

- P-47's of the 348th Fighter Group began arriving in Australia in June, and before the **end of July** the whole group had been deployed to New Guinea.
- Port Moresby also saw the arrival of new B-25's of the 345th Medium Bombardment Group **in July**.



Republic P47 Thunderbolt.

# end of July 1943

- Near the end of July Admiral Halsey suggested a change in plan to General MacArthur.
- With the difficulties of the then bogged-down New Georgia invasion and the success of the artillery on the offshore islands against Munda both obviously in mind, he suggested that he could save men, matériel, and time by avoiding the Bougainville mainland completely.
- He proposed to seize the Shortlands and Ballale, to emplace artillery on the former with the mission of interdicting Kahili, to build one or more airfields in the Shortlands, and to use the anchorages there that the Japanese 8th Fleet then employed regularly. MacArthur approved the scheme.



# July – 3 August – Ships lost to enemy action

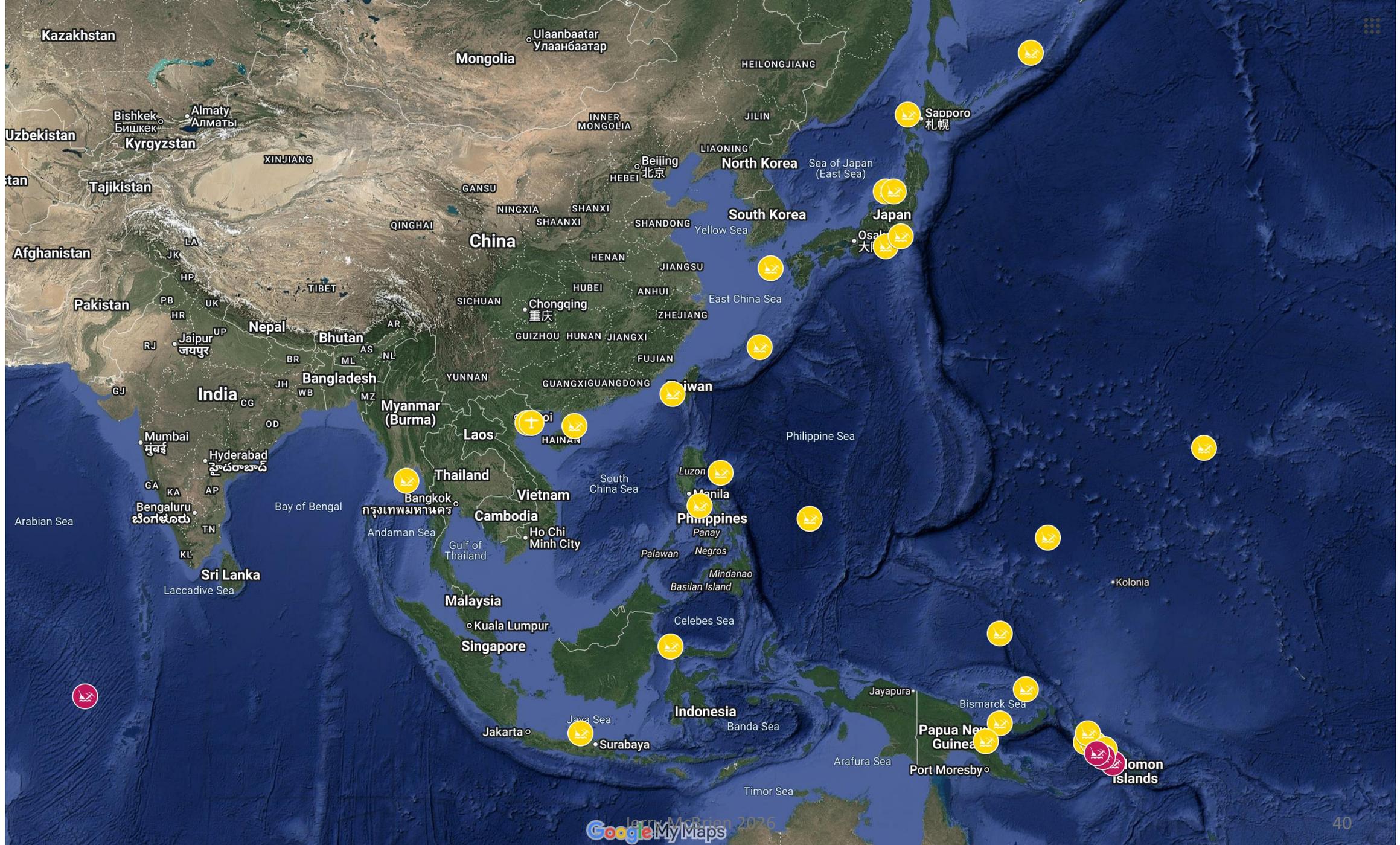
- 2 July – **Banshu Maru No 7** was torpedoed and sunk in the Pacific Ocean off the Kuril Islands by USS S-35
- **Canton Maru** was torpedoed and sunk off Formosa by USS Flying Fish
- **Isuzu Maru** was torpedoed and sunk in the Philippine Sea off Marinduque (13°45'N 121°50'E) by USS Trout
- **Yoneyama Maru** was torpedoed and sunk in the Celebes Sea (01°30'N 119°30'E) north east of Cape Talok, Borneo by USS Thresher
- Two **Elco 80' PT boats** ran aground and were abandoned off Munda Point, New Georgia
- 3 July - **Anzan Maru** was torpedoed and sunk in the Yellow Sea (38°20'N 138°24'E) by USS Scorpion
- **Kokuryu Maru** was torpedoed and sunk in the Yellow Sea (38°20'N 138°24'E) by USS Scorpion
- 4 July - **Koki Maru** was torpedoed and sunk in the Pacific Ocean 20 nautical miles (37 km) north west of Naha, Okinawa (28°29'N 124°15'E) by USS Snook
- **Liverpool Maru** was torpedoed and sunk in the Pacific Ocean 20 nautical miles (37 km) north west of Naha, Okinawa (28°29'N 124°15'E) by USS Snook
- **Nikkyo Maru** was torpedoed and sunk in the Pacific Ocean off southeast coast of Honshu (34°33'N 138°37'E) by USS Jack
- 6 July – **Banshu Maru No 33** was torpedoed and sunk in the Sea of Japan west of Hokkaido (43°35'N 140°21'E) by USS Permit
- 7 July – **Showa Maru** was torpedoed and sunk in the Sea of Japan off Otaru, Hokkaido, Japan (43°14'N 139°53'E) by USS Permit
- 9 July **Seiner No 20** was shelled and sunk in the Sea of Japan about 27 nautical miles off Kaiba by USS Permit
- 11 July **Taiko Maru** was torpedoed and sunk in the Philippine Sea (12°45'N 131°50'E) by USS Gurnard
- 12 July **Chikuzan Maru** was bombed and sunk in the Indian Ocean off Haiphong, French Indochina (20°52'N 106°41'E) by Consolidated B-24 Liberator aircraft of the American Fourteenth Air Force.
- **Niitaka Maru** was torpedoed and sunk in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Japan by USS Plunger
- **Ro-107** a Ro-100-class submarine was sunk off Kolombangara, Solomon Islands by USS Taylor
- **Tairyō Maru** was bombed and sunk in the Indian Ocean off Haiphon by Consolidated B-24 Liberator aircraft of the American Fourteenth Air Force.

# July – 3 August – Ships lost to enemy action

- 17 July - The **Fubuki-class destroyer** Hatsuyuki was bombed by US aircraft at Kahili, Shortland Islands (06°50'S 155°47'E) detonating the aft magazine and sinking her in shallow water.
- The **Mk 1 landing ship tank, LST-342**, was torpedoed and sunk in the Solomon Sea by Ro-106 ( Imperial Japanese Navy) south east of New Georgia (09°03'S 158°11'E).
- 19 July - The Shinsei Maru No. 18-class transport, **Mikage Maru No 20**, was torpedoed and sunk in the Pacific Ocean off the Marshall Islands (18°45'N 166°04'E) by USS Porpoise
- 20 July - The Hatsuharu-class **destroyer, Yugure**, was bombed and sunk in the Pacific Ocean north north west of Kolombangara (7°25'S 156°45'E) by Grumman TBM Avenger aircraft of the United States Marine Corps.
- The Yūgumo-class destroyer, **Kiyonami**, was bombed and sunk in the Pacific Ocean north north west of Kolombangara, Solomon Islands (7°13'S 156°45'E) by North American B-25 Mitchell aircraft of the United States Army Air Force. Lost with all hands, including survivors of Yūgure
- 21 July – **Saipan Maru** was torpedoed and sunk in the Pacific Ocean north of Palau (16°29'N 123°57'E) by USS Haddock
- 22 July – The seaplane carrier, **Nisshin**, was bombed and sunk by American aircraft off the south east tip of Bougainville Island, Solomon Islands (06°33'S 156°10'E). Five hundred and thirty-nine troops and an undetermined number of crew were killed
- 23 July - The tanker, **RFA Alcides**, (7,634 GRT, 1930) was torpedoed and sunk in the Indian Ocean (approximately 3°S 68°E) by I-10 ( Imperial Japanese Navy). Twelve of her 52 crew were killed. The 40 survivors took to the lifeboats. Three officers were taken aboard I-10 as prisoners of war; the other 37 crew were massacred in the lifeboats.
- 25 July - The cargo ship, **Suwa Maru**, was torpedoed and sunk in the Pacific Ocean by USS Finback, USS Seadragon and USS Tunny
- The Daifuku Maru No. 1-class auxiliary transport, **Thames Maru**, was torpedoed, broke in two and sunk in the Pacific Ocean (02°46'N 148°35'E) 240 miles (390 km) north of Manus by USS Pompon
- 27 July - The Sokuten-class minelayer, **Hirashima**, was torpedoed and sunk in the East China Sea west of the Goto Islands, off Cape Ose, Fukue Jima (02°50'S 149°01'E) by USS Sawfish
- The Kaidai-class submarine, **I-168**, was torpedoed and sunk in the Steffen Strait (31°00'N 130°33'E) by USS Scamp
- The **Teikun Maru** struck a mine in the South China Sea off Hainan Island (19°57'N 109°05'E) and sank.
- **These two positions have been transposed in Wikipedia.**

# July – 3 August – Ships lost to enemy action

- 28 July - Two Hatsuharu-class destroyers, **Ariake & Mikazuki**, were bombed and sunk off Cape Gloucester, New Guinea by North American B-25 Mitchell aircraft of the United States Army Air Forces.
- The Ro-100-class submarine, **Ro-103**, struck a mine and sank north of New Georgia, Solomon Islands.
- The cargo ship, **Tamishima Maru**, was bombed and sunk in the Andaman Sea south of Rangoon, Burma by Consolidated B-24 Liberator aircraft of the American Fourteenth Air Force.
- 30 July - The cargo ship, **Ryuzan Maru**, was torpedoed and sunk in the Java Sea (6°31'S 111°26'E) by USS Finback
- 31 July - The aircraft transport, **Mogamigawa Maru**, was torpedoed and sunk in the South China Sea (11°04'N 153°18'E) north of Truk by USS Pogy
- 1 August - Two Elco 80' **PT boats, PT-117 & PT-164**, were bombed and sunk by Japanese horizontal bombers in Rendova Harbor, Solomon Islands (08°25'S 157°20'E).
- 2 August - Two Gyoraitai No. 102/TM 4-class motor torpedo boats, **No 112 & No 113**, were sunk by Lockheed P-38 Lightning and North American B-25 Mitchell aircraft at Lae, New Guinea (07°00'N 147°00'E)
- The Elco 80-foot PT boat, **PT-109** was rammed, cut in half, and sunk in Blakett Strait (08°03'S 156°58'E) by the destroyer Amagiri ( Imperial Japanese Navy)



# August 1943 – New Guinea

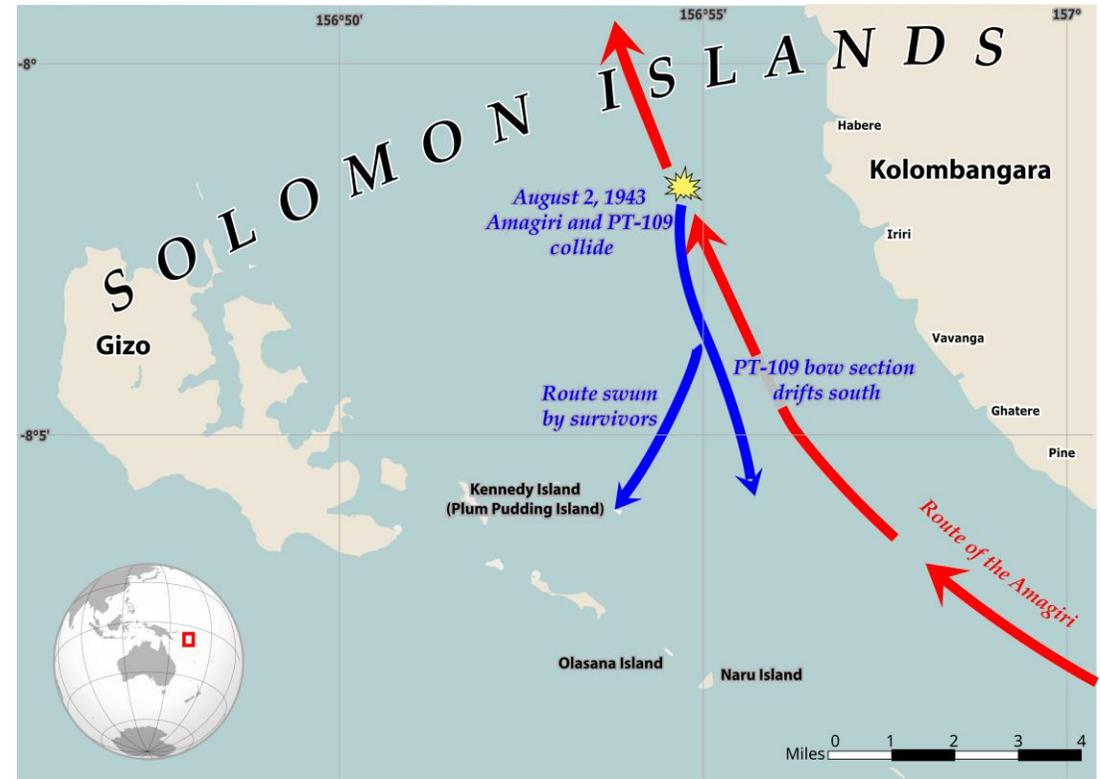
- In May 1943 No. 24 squadron RAAF began converting to a dive bomber squadron equipped with Vultee Vengeance aircraft.
- After completing its training on the Vengeance No. 24 Squadron deployed to New Guinea in August 1943 operating from Nadzab where it provided support to Australian Army and United States Marine Corps units in New Guinea and New Britain, supporting operations on the Huon Peninsula, around Shaggy Ridge and Cape Gloucester.
- The squadron continued in this role until March 1944, when the Vengeance was withdrawn from operational service.



A Vultee Vengeance dive bomber, Max speed 275 mph, ceiling 22,500 ft, bomb load 1,500 lbs.

# 1-2 August 1943 - Solomons

- In the night 1st-2nd August a Japanese "Tokyo Express" destroyer group successfully ran supplies through to Vila despite attempts by P.T. boats to frustrate the effort.
- As the enemy retired after landing their supplies, the destroyer Amagiri rammed and sank PT109, commanded by Lieutenant John F. Kennedy, U.S.N.R.
- When PT-109 was cut in two around 2:27 a.m., a fireball of exploding aviation fuel 100 feet high set the sea surrounding the ship on fire. Seamen Kirksey and Marney were killed instantly, and two other members of the crew were badly injured and burned when they were thrown into the flaming sea surrounding the boat.
- The eleven survivors regrouped and, hoping for rescue, clung to PT-109's bow section for 12 hours as it drifted slowly south. By about 1 p.m., on 2 August, it was apparent that the hull was taking on water and would soon sink, so they decided to swim for land, starting around 1:30 p.m.
- As there were Japanese camps on all the nearby large islands including Kolombangara, the closest, they chose the tiny deserted Plum Pudding Island southwest of where the bow section had drifted.



Map of the events of 2 August 1943,

The Island was only 100 yards in diameter, with no food or water. The exhausted crew dragged themselves behind the tree line to hide from passing Japanese barges.

# 1-2 August 1943 - Solomons

- The night of 2 August, Kennedy swam 2 miles to Ferguson Passage to attempt to hail a passing American PT boat. On 4 August, he and Lenny Thom assisted his injured and hungry crew on a swim 3.75 miles south to Olasana Island, which was visible from Plum Pudding Island. Once again, Kennedy towed McMahon by his life vest. They were pleased to discover Olasana had ripe coconuts, though there was still no fresh water.
- Sub-lieutenant Reg Evans, an Australian coastwatcher had seen the 109 explode from his observation site at the top of the Mount Veve volcano on Kolombangara. He sent islander scouts, Gasa and Kumana to look for possible survivors in a dugout canoe late on 5 August.
- On the following day, 5 August, Kennedy and George Ross swam for an hour to Naru Island, visible at an additional distance of about 0.5 miles southeast, in search of help and food. Kennedy and Ross found a small canoe, packages of crackers and candy, and a fifty-gallon drum of drinkable water left by the Japanese, which Kennedy paddled back to Olasana.



# 1-2 August 1943 - Solomons

- By chance, Gasa and Kumana stopped by Naru to investigate a Japanese wreck, from which they salvaged fuel and food. They first fled by canoe from Kennedy, who, with his sunburn, beard, and disheveled clothing, appeared to them to be a Japanese soldier. When they later arrived on Olasana, they pointed their Tommy guns at the rest of the crew, since the only light-skinned people they expected to find were Japanese, with whom they could not communicate.
- Gasa suggested sending a message scratched on a coconut, and Kumana climbed a coconut tree to pick one. On the instructions of Gasa, Kennedy painstakingly scratched the following message on the coconut husk with a knife:
  - NAURO ISL
  - COMMANDER... NATIVE KNOWS POS'IT...
  - HE CAN PILOT... 11 ALIVE
  - NEED SMALL BOAT... KENNEDY



Lieutenant John F. Kennedy, USNR, (standing at right) with other crewmen on board PT-109, 1943.

# 1-2 August 1943 - Solomons

- On 6 August, Gasa and Kumana left Olasana and headed east, carrying Kennedy's coconut message ten nautical miles to Wana Wana Island, south of Kolombangara.
- There, they took little time to rest but linked up with Senior Scout Benjamin Kevu, whom they told they had found the crew of PT-109. Kevu sent another scout to inform Evans of the discovery.
- Gasa and Kumana departed Wana Wana carrying Kennedy's message to a military outpost on Roviana Island, close to the PT Rendova base in a total of fifteen hours by paddling their canoe all night through 38 mi of rough seas patrolled by the Japanese.
- Gasa and Kumana were taken to the PT base at Rendova from Roviana with Gasa still clutching the coconut.
- Around 6 August, after speaking to Kevu about the eleven found on Olasana, Evans sent a canoe with some food for Kennedy and his crew with a message to Kennedy to return to him on Gomu Island in the canoe immediately.
- Kennedy followed this request, he was instructed to lie underneath palm fronds in the canoe so he would not be spotted by Japanese planes.



The coconut with the carved message, cast in a paperweight on display in the Kennedy Library.

# 1-2 August 1943 - Solomons

- Evans was unable to radio Rendova to confirm the news that Kennedy and his crew had been discovered until the morning of 7 August .
- On 7 August, when the coastwatcher scouts carrying the coconut arrived at Rendova, PT Commander Warfield was at first skeptical of the messages and the trustworthiness of the native scouts. After finally receiving Evans' radioed message of the discovery of the 109 crew he cautiously consented to risk two PTs to rescue them.
- Departing just after sunset from Rendova at 7:00 p.m. on 8 August, Liebenow motored PT-157 to Evans' base at Gomu Island, off Kolombangara. To avoid making a wake, Liebenow traveled at 10–15 knots, muffled his engines, and zigzagged to prevent being tracked by planes or shore batteries.
- With Kennedy aboard, PT-157 rescued the weak and hungry PT-109 crew members on Olasana Island in the early morning of 8 August.
- PT 157 then motored the full crew and the coastwatcher scouts forty miles back to the Rendova PT base, where they could begin to receive medical attention.



# 1-2 August 1943 - Solomons

- PT-109 entering Tulagi carrying 94 survivors from the sunken heavy cruiser USS Northampton
- The previous night, during the battle of Tassafaronga, Northampton was hit by two torpedoes from Japanese destroyers which sank her in 2 hours and 16 minutes.
- In the background, the crippled heavy cruiser USS New Orleans (CA-32) is seen in the background, having been hit by a torpedo which sheared off her bow and turret 1.
- Date 1 December 1942
- The 80 ft Elco MTBs were the largest PT boats operated by the U.S. Navy during World War II. They had strong wooden hulls, constructed of two layers of 1-inch mahogany planking, excellent for speed and reasonably adequate for seakeeping, but providing limited protection in combat.
- They were powered by three 12-cylinder 1,500 horsepower Packard marinized aero engines.
- The exhausts could be restricted to under water to limit noise at low speeds.



# Early August – New Guinea

- Final plans for the attack on Lae, issued in August, called for the employment of two veteran Australian divisions, the 7th and the 9th, the U.S. 503d Parachute Infantry Regiment, and elements of the U.S. 2nd Engineer Special Brigade, as well as the American and Australian troops already pressing against Salamaua.
- The 9th Australian Division was to be carried by the VII Amphibious Force, with elements of the 2nd Engineer Special Brigade, attached, from Milne Bay to beaches far enough east of Lae to be beyond range of enemy artillery.
- D Day was set for 27 August
- The combination of parachute and airlifted troops in co-ordination with amphibious assault had not been used hitherto by the Allies in the Pacific but there was not enough transport to carry the whole force either by air or sea.



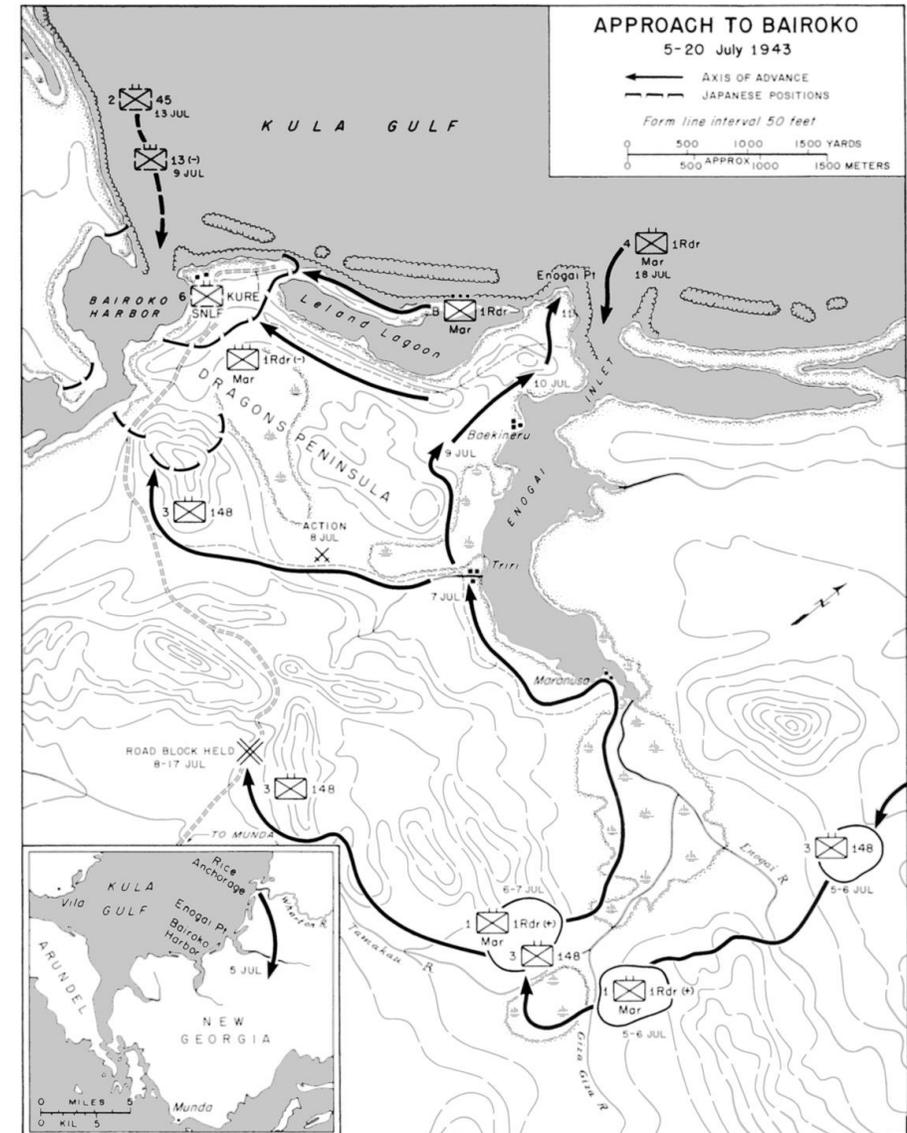
# 6–7 August – New Georgia

- Rabaul made a final, disastrous attempt to reinforce New Georgia. Under the protection of a single destroyer, 940 troops and 700 naval personnel were loaded aboard three destroyer-transport and sent down to Kolombangara on the night of 6–7 August.
- Wilkinson, anticipating such a movement, sent a force of six destroyers under Commander Frederick Moosbrugger (photo) to intercept them. The morale of Moosbrugger's crews was buoyed by the fact that at last they would be free of the combat doctrine that required them to stick close to the cruisers; on this night, they would be able to apply their own tactics.
- The U.S. ships made radar contact with the Japanese force at 23:33 on 6 August. Moosbrugger divided his forces into two divisions. Moosbrugger's own Destroyer Division 12 (Dunlap, Craven and Maury) was to launch a surprise torpedo attack out of the shadow of Kolombangara.
- The American destroyers did not give away their position with gunfire until their torpedoes started striking their targets.
- All four Japanese destroyers were hit by American torpedoes. Hagikaze, Arashi, and Kawakaze burst into flames and either sank immediately or were quickly sunk by gunfire. The torpedo that hit Shigure was a dud that passed through her rudder without detonating, allowing her to escape into the darkness.
- Most of the Japanese left in the water after their ships sank refused rescue by American ships. 685 Japanese soldiers and 525 sailors were lost, mostly by drowning. 300 survivors reached Vella Lavella.



# 10 August – New Georgia

- Beginning 3 August, Liversedge tried again, first establishing a battalion of the 148th Infantry Regiment at a blocking position on the Munda trail.
- Two days later he relieved these men with a combined Army/Marine force and moved the 148th to a dominant position overlooking the entire area.
- On 10 August, Liversedge picked up another US battalion and renewed the direct attack on Bairoko.
- At the same time, two regiments from the 25th Infantry Division, sent to New Georgia as reinforcements, advanced on Bairoko from Munda Point mopping up after the capture of Munda airfield.



MAP 8

# 12 August – New Guinea

- On August 12, 1943, Roosevelt was wounded by an enemy grenade, which shattered the same knee that had been injured in World War I, and for which he had been earlier medically retired, earning him the distinction of being the only American to ever be classified as 100% disabled twice for the same wound incurred in two different wars.
- At the time of his injury, command of his battalion passed to his executive officer, Major Taylor.
- Archie returned to his unit in early 1944.
- Photo: Captain Roosevelt, in 1919, recovering from wounds received during World War I



# 13 August – New Guinea

- The 475th Fighter Group, flying P-38's, was ready for combat by the **middle of August**.
- One of the 380<sup>th</sup> Bombers first large-scale operations was a spectacular raid on the oil center at Balikpapan, Borneo, on 13 August, a feat that required a 1,200-mile round trip.



# 13 August – New Guinea

- On 13 August photographs taken by Allied reconnaissance planes showed a total of 199 Japanese airplanes on the four fields at Wewak.
- The 4th Air Army was now due for a surprise.
- Tsili Tsili was ready by midmonth and so was the Fifth Air Force.
- General Whitehead had four bombardment groups with enough range to hit Wewak from Port Moresby--two heavy groups with 64 planes in commission and two medium groups totalling 58 B-25's.
- With Tsili Tsili in commission the bombers would have fighter protection all the way.



Reconnaissance photo of Wewak, East Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea. Notice the destroyed Japanese aircraft in the lower right corner. Actual date is unknown

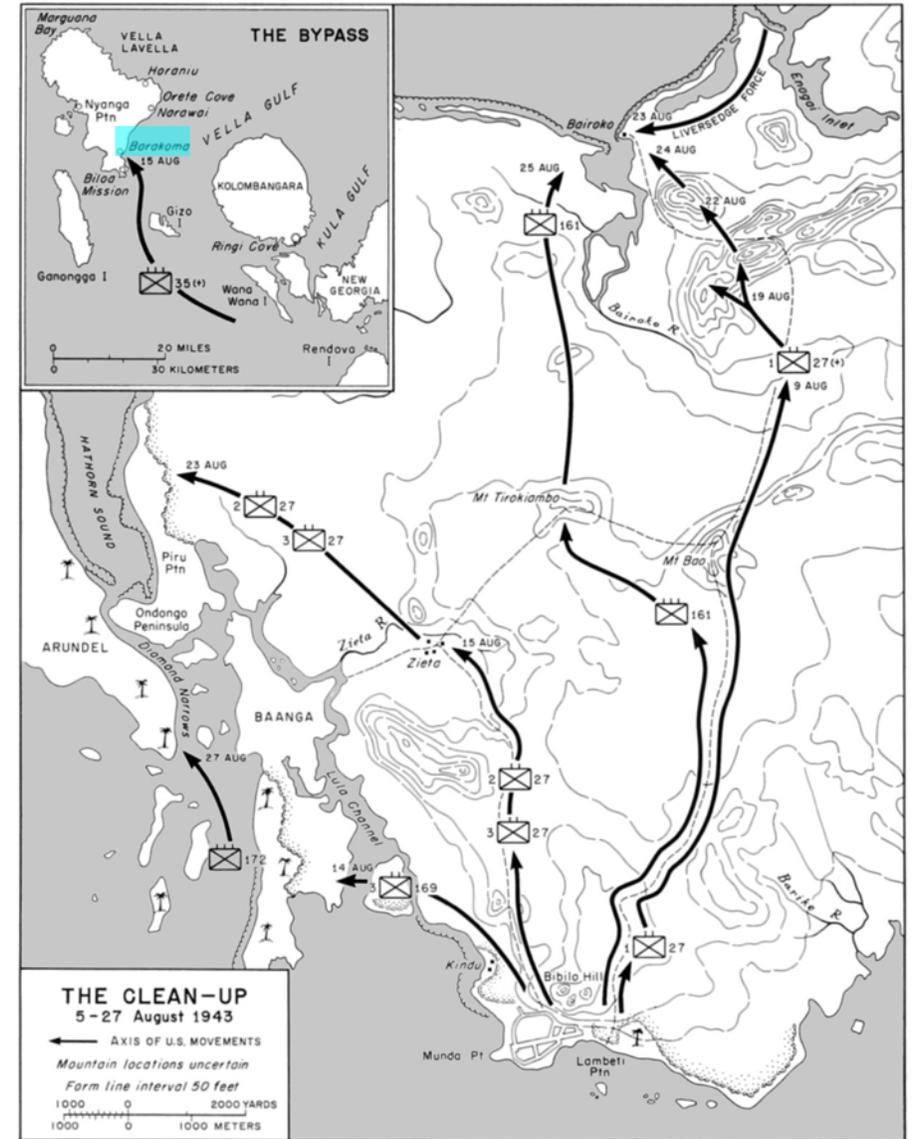
# 13 August 1943 - Manhattan Project

- August 13: First drop test of gun-type fission weapon at Dahlgren Naval Proving Ground under the direction of Norman F. Ramsey.



# 14 - 15 August - Vella Lavella

- The village of **Barakoma** near the island's southeastern tip was selected as the landing place.
- A large invasion force of about 6,500 troops led by Major General Robert B. McClure, escorted by 12 destroyers under the command of Wilkinson was dispatched from Guadalcanal early on 14 August.
- That night, Japanese planes attacked multiple Allied bases but completely missed this fleet headed for Vella Lavella. The next morning, disembarkation began at Barakoma.



MAP 11

# 15 August 1943 – New Guinea

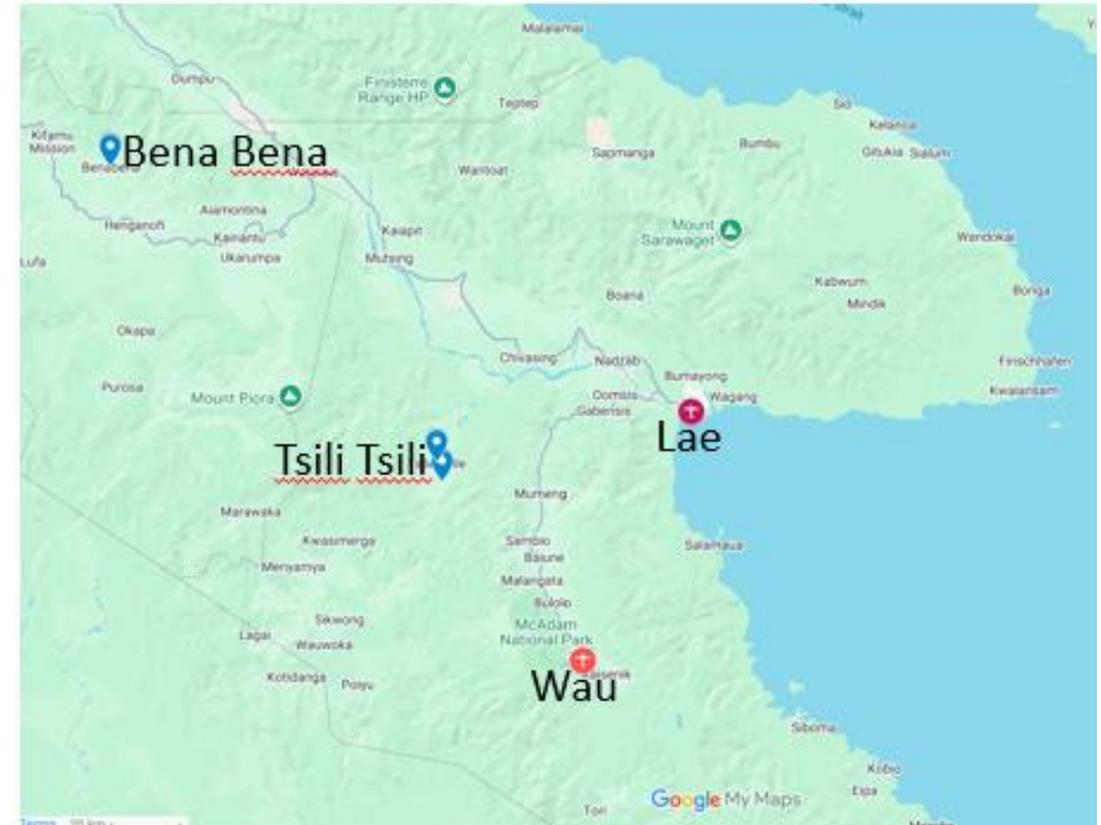
- D Day for the Lae operation was postponed finally to 4 September to permit the assembly of enough C-47's, more training for the 7th Australian Division, and the relief of the VII Amphibious Force of its responsibilities for Woodlark and Kiriwina.
- The precise date was picked by General Kenney on the basis of weather forecasts. He wanted fog over western New Britain and Vitiaz and Dampier Straits that would keep Japanese aircraft away while bright clear weather over New Guinea--a fairly common condition--permitted the flight to and jump into the Markham Valley. The fourth of September promised to be such a date and was selected.



*Lieutenant General George Churchill Kenney*

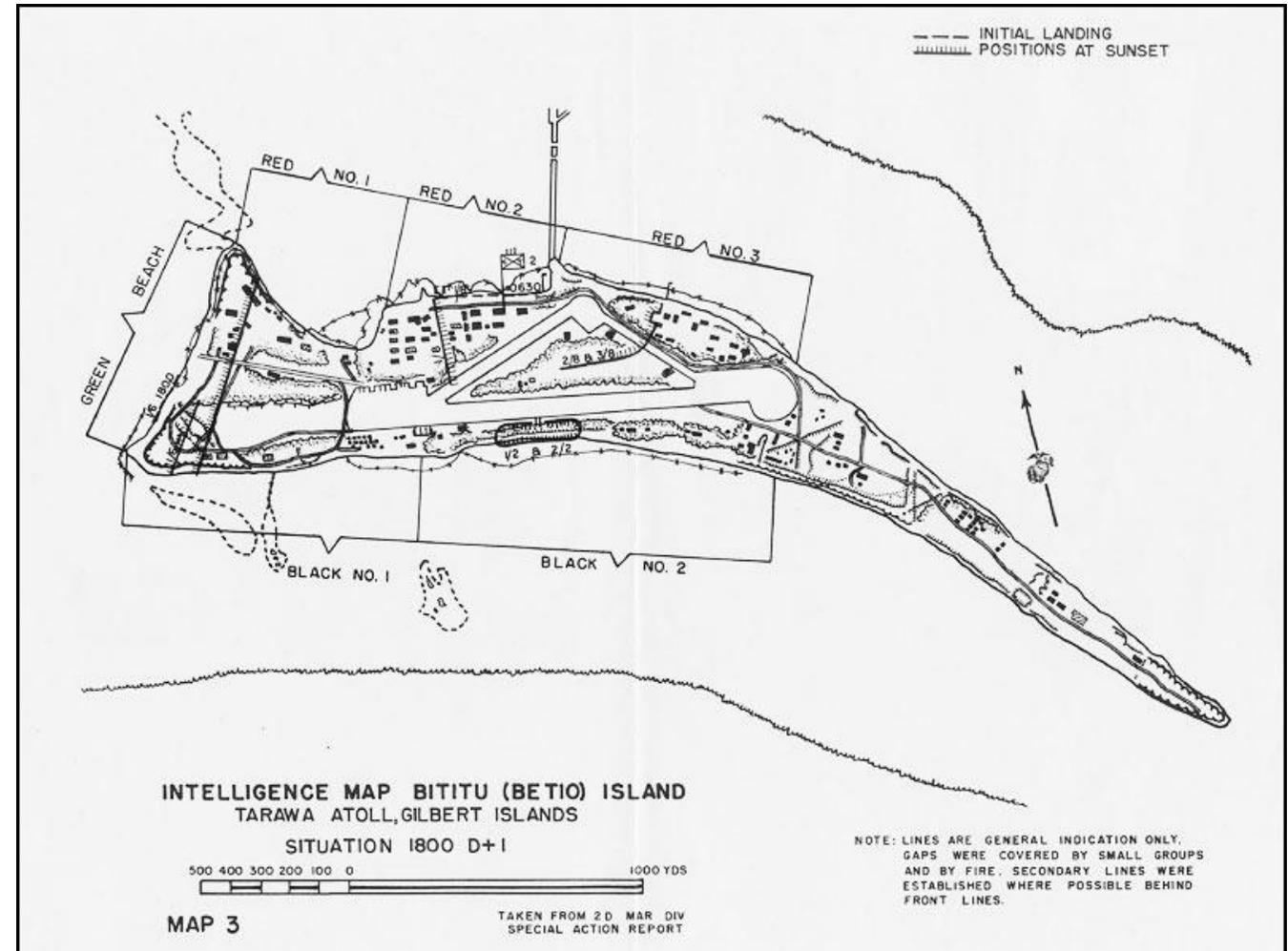
# Mid August – New Guinea

- Two strips at Tsili Tsili were soon ready, and by mid-August three thousand troops, including a fighter squadron, were based there.
- Japanese aircraft failed to molest the Allies until the fields were all built; they raided Tsili Tsili on 15 and 16 August without doing much damage and thereafter left it alone.



# August - Central Pacific

- In August, Admiral Raymond A. Spruance flew to New Zealand to meet with the new commander of the 2nd Marine Division, General Julian C. Smith, and initiate the planning of the Tarawa invasion with the division's commanders.



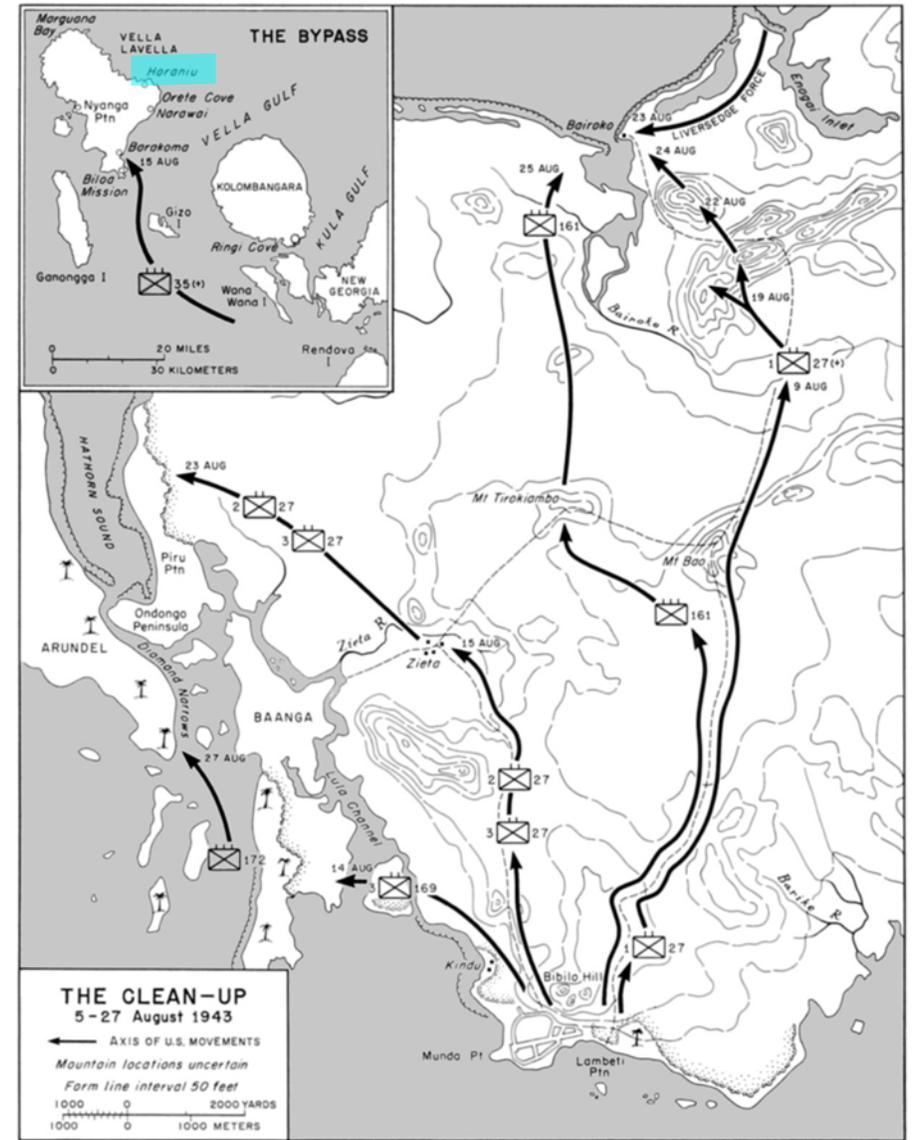
# 17 August – New Guinea

- Heavy and medium bombers and fighters struck the four Wewak fields on 17 August and achieved excellent results. Taking the Japanese by surprise, they caught most of the enemy planes on the ground. Next day they were back in strength, and the Wewak offensive continued throughout the rest of August. The planes struck at Hansa Bay and Alexishafen during the same period.
- Damage inflicted by these raids was heavy, though less than estimated at the time. Kenney's headquarters claimed over 200 Japanese aircraft destroyed on the ground, a claim that Army Air Forces headquarters scaled down to 175. Postwar Japanese reports, however, give losses as about half what the Allies initially claimed.



# 17–18 August - Vella Lavella

- On the night of 17–18 August a small force of Japanese ground and naval troops was sent to secure the area of **Horaniu** on the northeast coast of Vella Lavella.
- The Japanese destroyer covering force was met in The Slot by four US destroyers under Captain Thomas J. Ryan and subsequently fought an inconclusive action off Horaniu.
- No ships of either side were lost, and the Japanese succeeded in establishing a barge base.



MAP 11

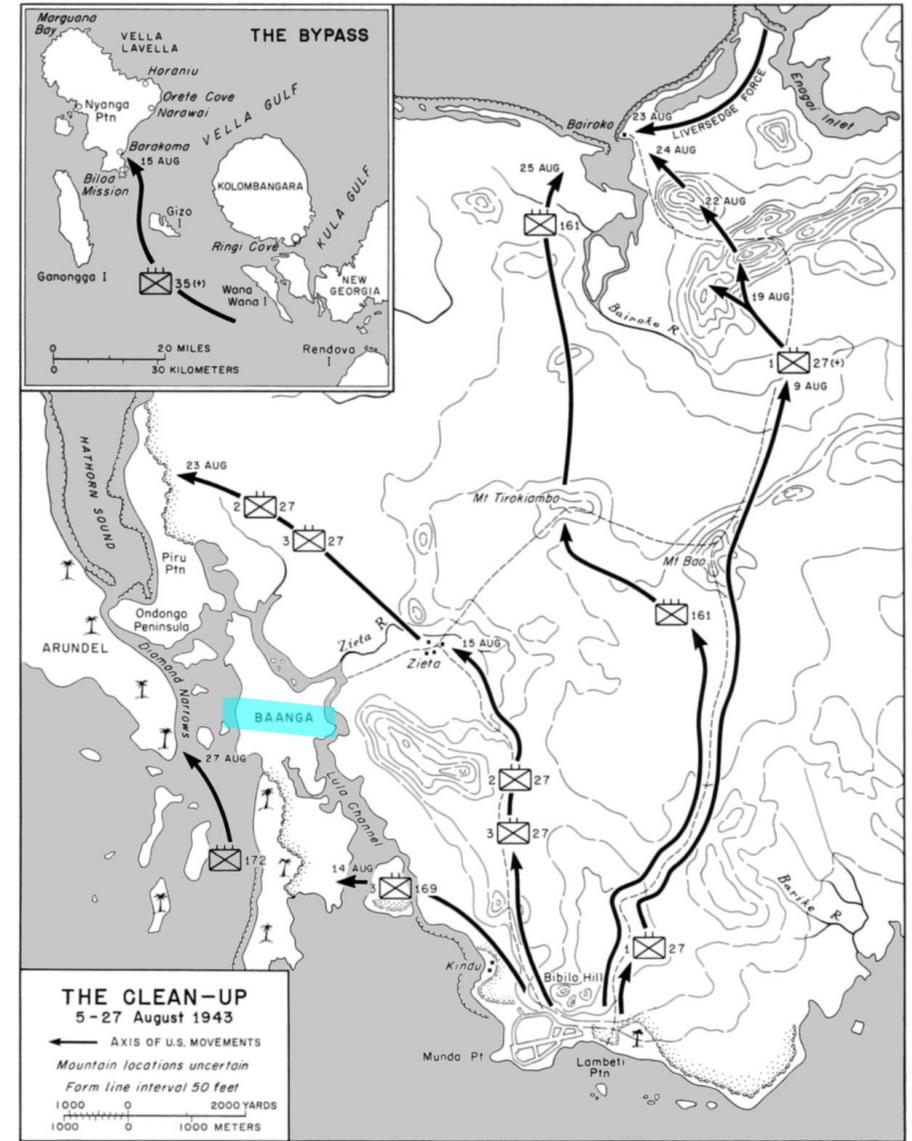
# 19 August 1943 - Manhattan Project

- August 19: Roosevelt and Churchill sign Quebec Agreement, it was a secret agreement between the United Kingdom and the United States outlining the terms for the coordinated development of the science and engineering related to nuclear energy and specifically nuclear weapons.
- Tube Alloys is merged with the Manhattan project.
- Photo: Press Conference at the Citadelle of Quebec during the Quadrant Conference. Left to right: President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie King, and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. Seated on the wall behind them are Anthony Eden, Brendan Bracken and Harry Hopkins.



# 23 August – New Georgia

- US Army forces moved along the west coast of New Georgia, wiping out the 200 Japanese remaining in the Zieta area.
- Elements of the 169th and 172nd Infantry Regiments captured **Baanga** islet on 20–21 August, silencing the Japanese artillery that had been shelling Munda.
- Despite the proximity of US patrols, the last Japanese troops on New Georgia were moved by barge from Bairoko Harbor over to Kolombangara on the night of 23 August.
- This marked the end of ground combat on New Georgia.
- After two grueling weeks the Americans entered Bairoko unopposed on 24 August.



MAP 11

# 23 August – New Guinea

- PT boats based at Morobe were stalking the enemy barge routes at night and making the transport of men and munitions to Lae increasingly difficult.
- The Fifth Air Force's successful strike against Wewak encouraged Admiral Carpenter to send warships as far up the coast as Finschhafen.
- On 22 August four destroyers under Capt. Jesse H. Carter left Milne Bay, stopped at Buna to discuss air cover and obtain target information, and sailed for Finschhafen.
- Starting at 0121, 23 August, Carter's ships bombarded Finschhafen with 540 rounds of 5-inch shells and returned safely to Milne Bay.
- This operation was small in itself, but it was significant because this was the first time Allied warships had ventured so far up the New Guinea coast.



[PT-191](#) and [PT-190](#) moored at [Morobe PT Boat Base](#) near [Morobe](#) on the north coast of [New Guinea](#)

Credit: USN Date: 1943

B&W

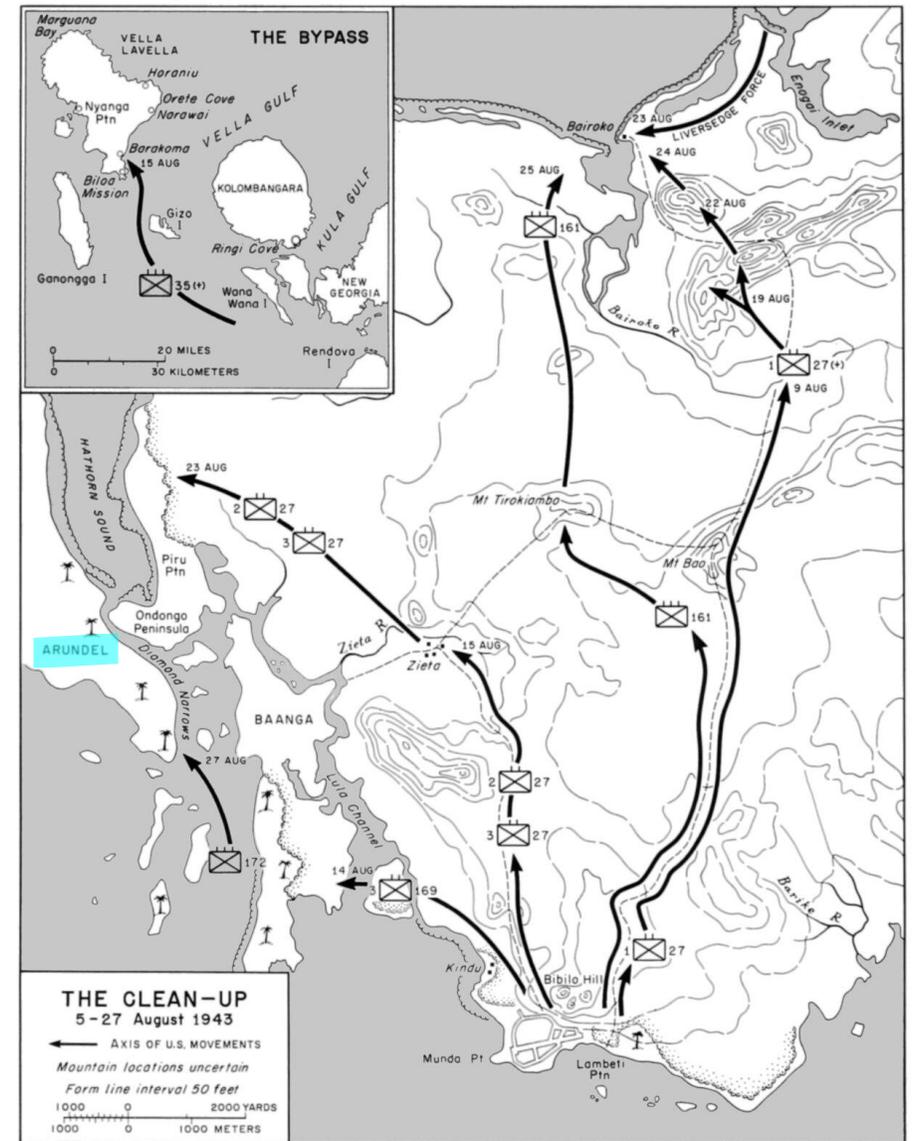
# 25 August 1943 - SEAC

- Lord Louis Mountbatten's appointment as Supreme Commander, South-East Asia (with the acting rank of admiral), was made public on 25th August.
- Photo: Mountbatten during his tour of the Arakan campaign in Burma in February 1944.



# 27 August – New Georgia

- When the US 172nd Infantry Regiment landed on **Arundel Island**, just west of New Georgia, on 27 August, the Japanese allowed them to come ashore unopposed and establish a beachhead.
- Just as the Americans were feeling the occupation would be easy, they counterattacked in multiple places, tying the Americans down and forcing them to call for reinforcements.



MAP 11

# End August – S.W. Pacific

- By the end of August the Southwest Pacific Area had on hand nearly all its authorized plane strength--197 heavy bombers and 598 fighters.
- Keeping this number in flying condition, however, was next to impossible. Many of the planes were old, and with the air forces constantly in action there were always battle casualties.
- Kenney was always short of manpower; he could never obtain enough replacement pilots to keep all his new and veteran squadrons up to strength, a condition that was probably duplicated in every active theater.



Republic P-47 Thunderbolt fighters

# August – S.W. Pacific

- And the C-47's were also increasing in number. By September the 54th Troop Carrier Wing could boast fourteen full squadrons of transport planes.
- NEW GUINEA. A U.S. ANTI-AIRCRAFT UNIT LOADS A 40MM BOFORS GUN INTO A DOUGLAS C47 TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT OF THE US ARMY AIR FORCE. 25 June 1943.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

015104

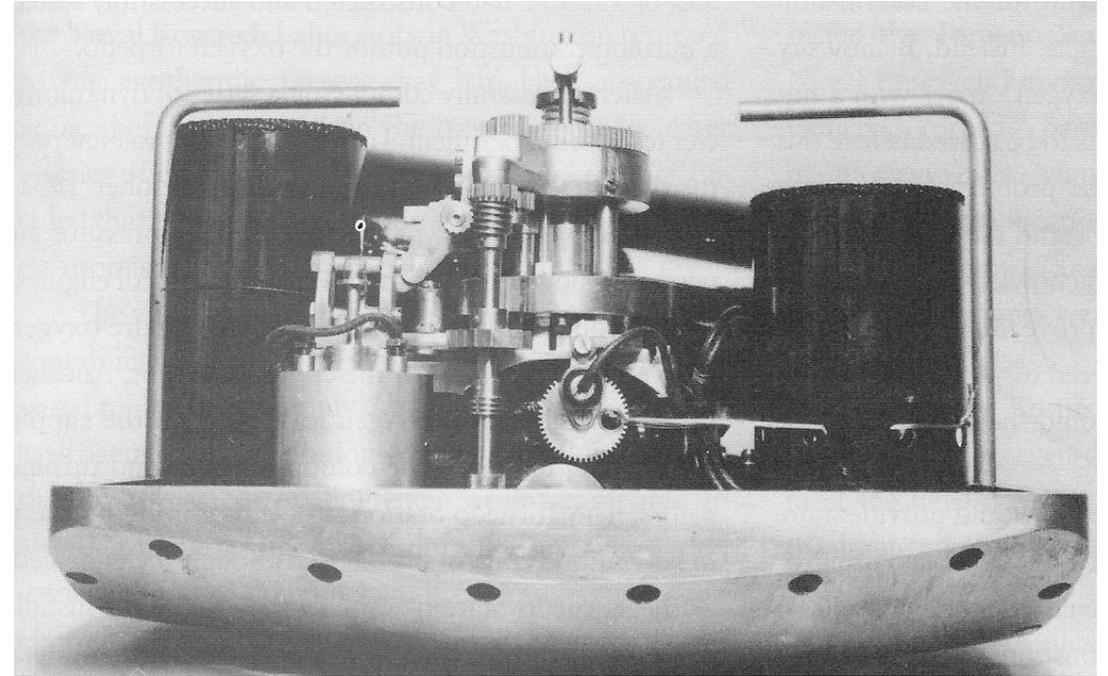
# Late August – New Guinea

- Throughout late August and into early September the Japanese in the Salamaua region fought to hold the advancing Allies along their final line of defence in front of Salamaua, nevertheless the 58th/59th Infantry Battalion succeeded in crossing the Francisco River and the 42nd Infantry Battalion subsequently captured the main Japanese defensive position around Charlie Hill.
- All advances were made up and down precipitous ridges varying from eight hundred to three thousand feet in height. With characteristic skill the Japanese had established strong defensive positions on the ridges; there were many automatic weapons emplacements, with earth-and-log pillboxes predominating, that gave each other mutual support with interlocking bands of fire. Trenches and tunnels connected the emplacements.
- Photo: CROSSING RAIN-SWOLLEN FRANCISCO RIVER



# 31 August 1943 - Torpedoes

- It was now clear to all at Pearl Harbor the contact pistol was also defective. Once the magnetic influence exploder was deactivated, problems with the contact exploder became more apparent. Torpedoes would hit their target without detonating.



Defective, inadequately tested Mark 6 Mod 1 exploder used early in the war. In September 1943, it was replaced with the Mark 6 Mod 5.

# 31 August 1943 - Torpedoes

- Daspit's cruise raised enough of an issue that tests were carried out by COMSUBPAC's gunnery and torpedo officer, Art Taylor. Taylor, "Swede" Momsen, and others fired warshots into the cliffs of Kahoolawe, beginning 31 August, the first two exploded, the third did not.
- Additional trials, supervised by Taylor, used a crane to drop warheads filled with sand instead of high explosive from a height of 90 feet (the height was chosen so the velocity at impact would match the torpedo's running speed of 46 knots).
- In these drop tests, 70% of the exploders failed to detonate when they hit the target at 90 degrees. A quick fix was to encourage "glancing" shots (which cut the number of duds in half), until a permanent solution could be found.

# 1 September 1943 – New Guinea

- On 1st September, a detachment of No. 4 Squadron, comprising ten pilots and a navigator, had flown eight Boomerangs and two Wirraways to Tsili Tsili to take part in the Lae-Nadzab campaign in direct support of the 7th and 9th Divisions.
- Each division was to have four Boomerangs and a Wirraway at its disposal for reconnaissance, supply dropping, ferrying officers, and strafing.
- The squadron's aircraft were kept at constant stand-by at Tsili Tsili and generally the time between receipt of a request for a mission and the arrival of the aircraft over the target was forty minutes.
- It was found that tactical reconnaissance had to be carried out at an altitude of not more than 200 feet over the jungle and frequently enemy small-arms fire struck low-flying Boomerangs .



CAC Boomerang

# 1 September 1943 - Jaywick

- In March 1942 Colonel G. E. Mott arrived in Australia from Britain, where he was a member of the Special Operations Executive.
- Mott—advised by the D.N.I. and by Lieut-Colonel Oldham who was detailed by General Blamey—formed in Melbourne in March 1942 a replica of the Special Operations Executive in the form of the Inter-Allied Services Department.
- In 1942 when the Japanese invaded Malaya Major H. A. Campbell, of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, and Captain Lyon of the Gordon Highlanders came down to Australia.
- In Melbourne they called on the D.N.I. and outlined to him plans they had in mind for attacking ships in Singapore.
- Naval Board approval of the scheme was received. Krait was secured, volunteers from the Navy were forthcoming both to man the ship and join the operatives, and training was carried out.
- There were, however, successive delays due to engine trouble in Krait—the only available vessel suitable for the task—and early in 1943 it was decided to abandon the operation.

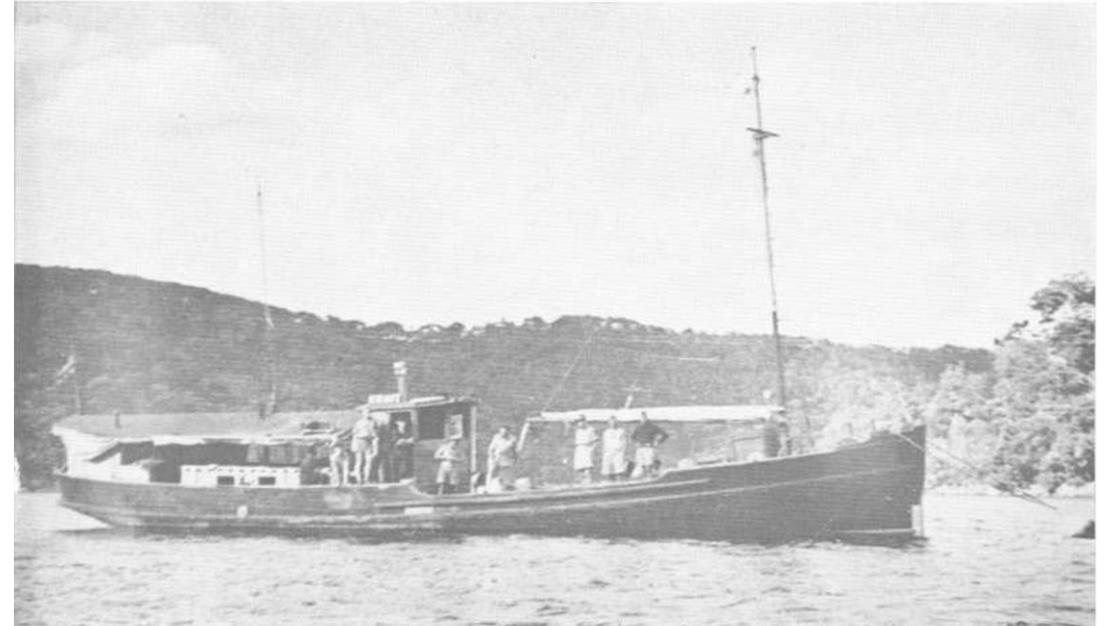


(R.A.N. Historical Section)

The crew and operatives of *Krait*. *L. to R. front:* Lieutenant H. E. Carse, Lieutenant D. M. N. Davidson, Major I. Lyon, Major H. A. Campbell, Lieutenant R. C. Page; *middle row:* Corporal A. A. Crilly, Leading Seaman K. P. Cain, Leading Stoker J. P. McDowell, Leading Telegraphist H. S. Young, Able Seaman W. G. Falls, Corporal R. G. Morris; *back row:* Able Seamen M. Berryman, F. W. L. Marsh, A. W. Jones, A. W. G. Huston. (Campbell, who came out of Singapore with Lyon, did not accompany the JAYWICK expedition.)

# 1 September 1943 - Jaywick

- Later in 1943, for lack of any other projects to keep these misfits occupied, the plan to attack Japanese ships in Singapore was revived and developed.
- On 1st September 1943 Krait was in Exmouth Gulf ready to sail posing as an Indonesian trader.
- The route was to be through Lombok Strait , across the Java Sea, along the south-west and west coasts of Borneo, and thence westward across to the Lingga Archipelago and the islands south of Singapore.
- She carried a supply of limpet mines, and two-man canoes in which the operatives would enter the chosen harbours to deliver their attacks on ships alongside and at anchor.
- At 5.30 p.m. on 1st September Krait cast off and proceeded on her voyage.

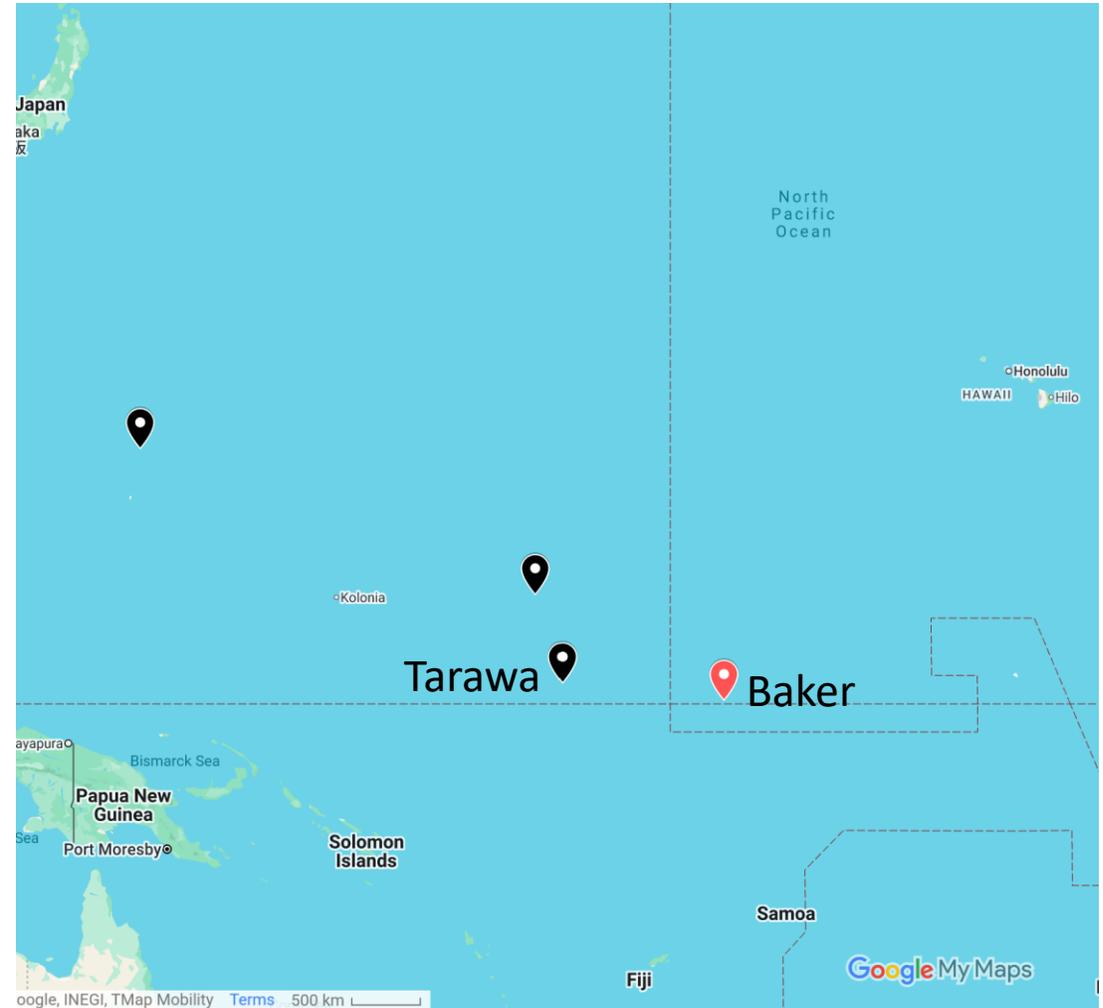


*Krait.*

*(R.A.N. Historical Section)*

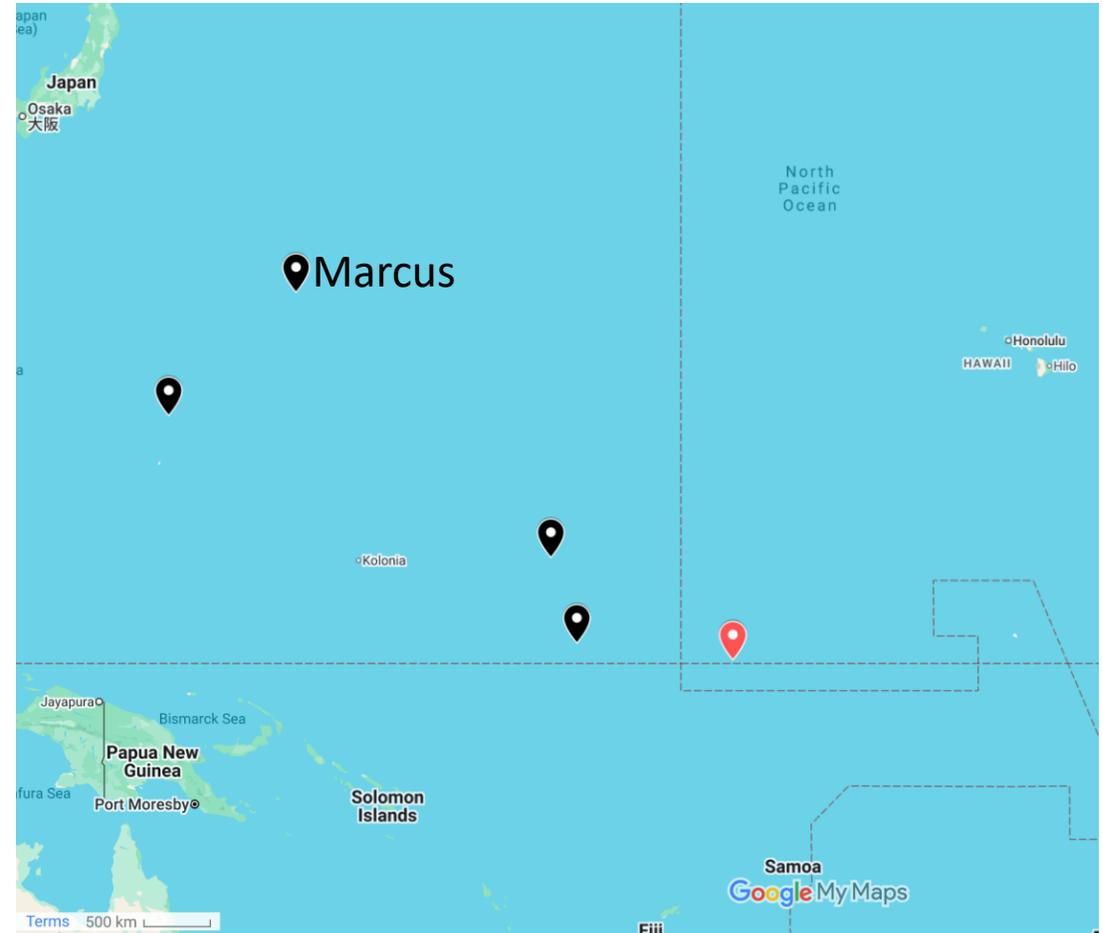
# 1 September 1943 – Central Pacific

- Belleau Wood was assigned to Task Group (TG) 11.2, which also included Princeton and seven escorts.
- The ships sortied from Pearl Harbor on 25 August, bound for Baker Island, which they reached on 1 September.
- That day, fighters from Belleau Wood's combat air patrol (CAP) intercepted and shot down a Japanese Kawanishi H8K flying boat.
- Over the following two weeks, Belleau Wood and Princeton covered ground forces on the island as they constructed an airfield that would be used to support the impending Gilbert and Marshall Islands campaign.



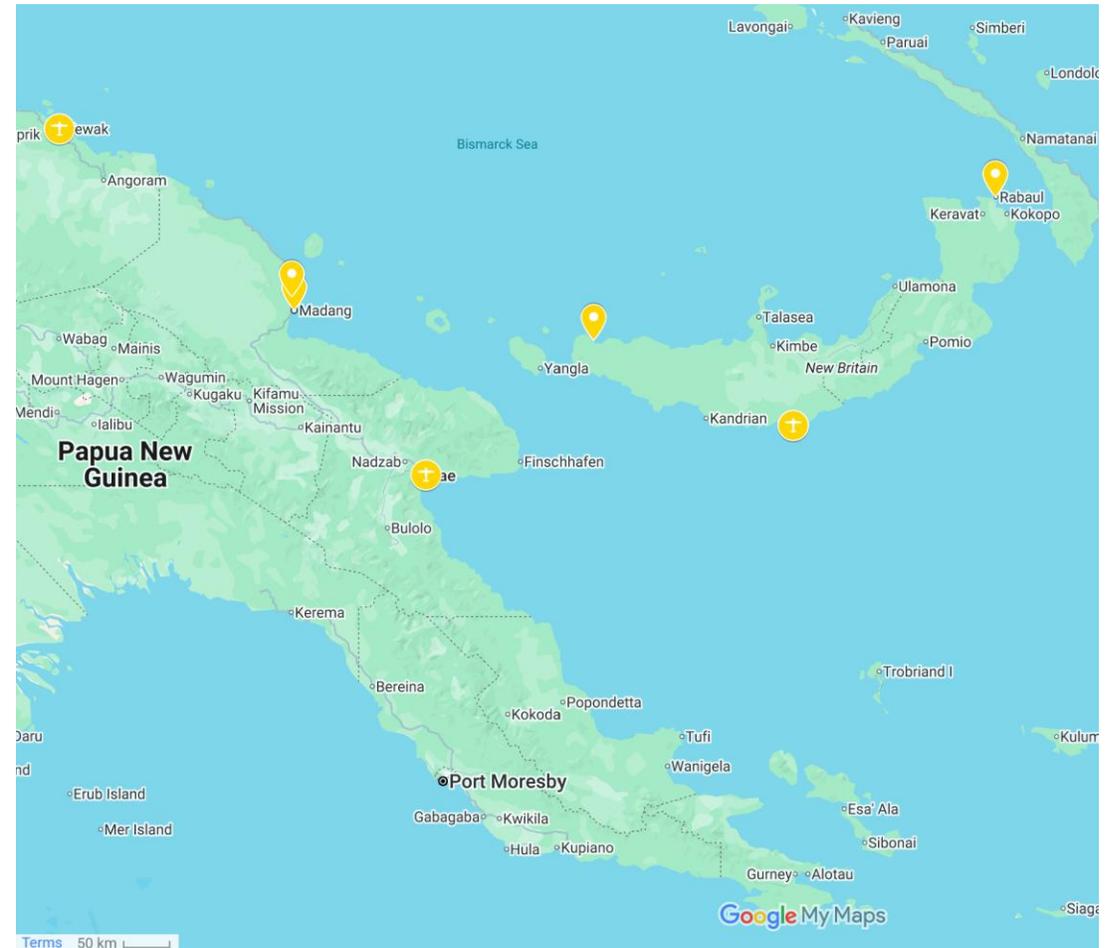
# 1 September 1943 – Central Pacific

- Independence sailed with carriers Essex and Yorktown for a raid on Marcus Island.
- Aircraft from the carrier force struck on 1 September and destroyed over 70 percent of the installations on the island.



# 1 – 3 September – New Guinea

- During the first three days of September Allied planes executed preparatory bombardments in support of the Lae invasion.
- They launched heavy attacks against airfields, supply points, and shipping lanes on 1 September, the same day on which medium and heavy bombers raided Alexishafen and Madang.
- Next day B-25's and P-38's delivered a low level attack against Wewak.
- Gasmata and Borgen Bay on New Britain, and Lae itself, were struck on 3 September, and eleven nocturnal RAAF Catalinas raided Rabaul.



# 3 September 1943 - Mediterranean

- The appointment of Badoglio did not change the position of Italy as Germany's ally in the war. However, many channels sought a peace treaty with the Allies. Meanwhile, Adolf Hitler sent several divisions south of the Alps, officially to help defend Italy from Allied landings.
- At 14:00 on 3 September. Castellano and Bedell Smith signed the accepted text. The armistice includes that all Italian land, air, and naval forces must cease hostilities against the Allies. A bombing mission on Rome by 500 airplanes was stopped at the last moment and had been Eisenhower's inducement to accelerate the procedure of the armistice.
- the armistice was kept secret on that day and was announced to the media on 8 September.



General Walter Bedell Smith signing the armistice with General Giuseppe Castellano and other Allied staffs looking on, in the Fairfield military camp in Cassibile, Sicily.

# 4 September 1943 – New Guinea

- Maj. Gen. G. F. Wootten's 9th Australian Division, embarked on the ships of Admiral Barbey's Task Force 76 at Milne Bay on 1 September.
- Next day Barbey's ships sailed to Buna and to Morobe, where they were joined by fifty-seven landing craft of the 2d Engineer Special Brigade that had assembled there in the latter part of August.
- On the night of 3-4 September the armada set out for Lae, eighty miles distant; it arrived at the landing beaches east of Lae at sunrise of 4 September.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

014308

GENERAL VASEY, GENERAL HERRING AND BRIGADIER WOOTTEN AT THE SANANANDA FRONT.

# 4 September 1943 – New Guinea

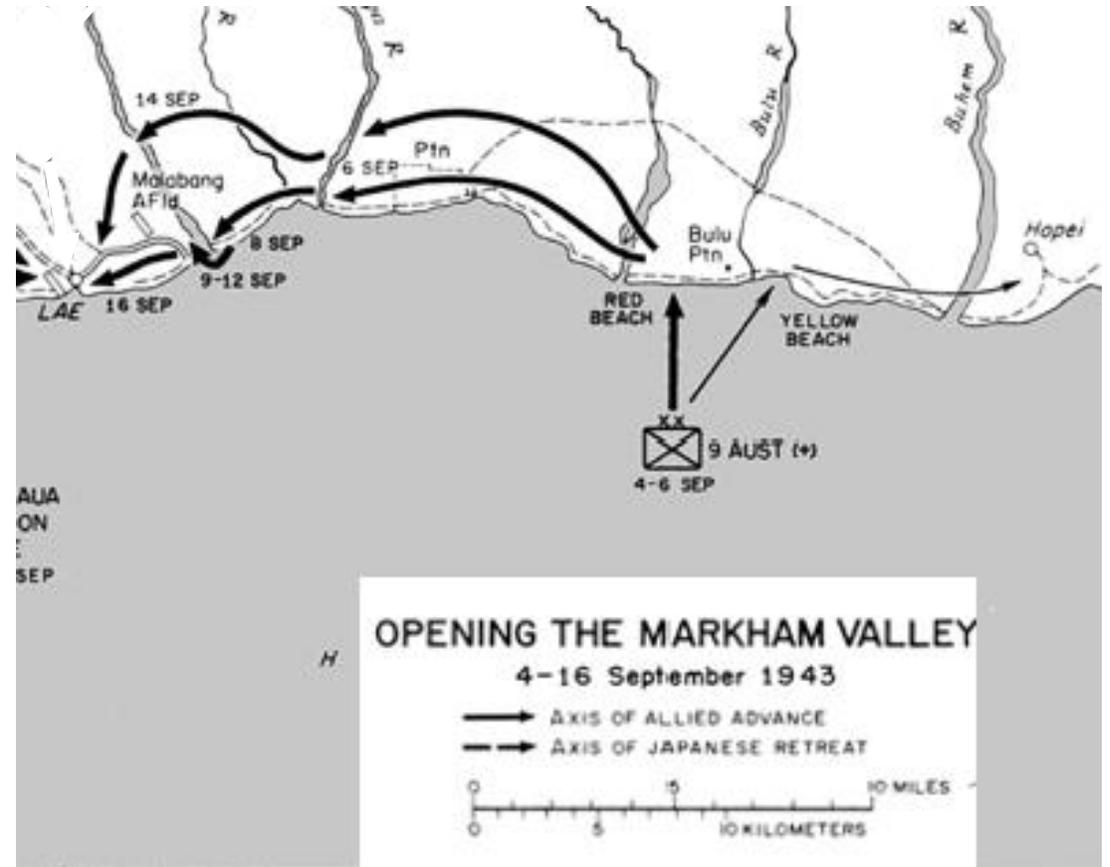
- At 0618, eighteen minutes after the sun rose, five destroyers fired a ten minute bombardment on the beaches.
- Then sixteen landing craft from the APD's started for the beaches carrying the assault waves.
- At 0631 the 20th Australian Infantry Brigade began going ashore at RED Beach, near Bulu Plantation and some eighteen miles east of Lae. This landing was unopposed.
- Two minutes later troops of the 26th Australian Infantry Brigade landed at YELLOW Beach, eighteen miles east of Lae, east of the Bulu River.
- A small group of Japanese on YELLOW Beach ran away at the approach of the Australians.
- [Landing at Red Beach | Australian War Memorial](#)



AUSTRALIAN TROOPS DEBARKING FROM LST'S for the occupation of Lae.

# 4 September 1943 – New Guinea

- All assault troops had landed by 0830, and
- by 1030 fifteen hundred tons of supplies had been landed.
- The 2/13th Australian Infantry Battalion, once landed, pushed east from Bulu Plantation and secured the east flank by seizing Hopoi.
- By the end of the day the beachheads were secure, 2,400 more Australians had landed, and the 26th Brigade and the 2/17th Australian Infantry Battalion had crossed the Buso and begun the advance westward against Lae.



# 4 September 1943 – New Guinea

- There was no resistance on the ground, but Japanese aircraft attempted to break up the invasion.
- About 0700, before fighter cover had arrived, a few twin engine bombers with fighter escort attacked Task Force 76 and damaged two LCI's.
- The air counter attack from Rabaul was delayed by the fog over New Britain that Kenney's weathermen had predicted.
- Reid, the picket destroyer's, radar located eighty planes over Gasmata in the afternoon just as Task Force 76 was making ready to sail for Milne Bay. The Reid vectored out forty P-38's and twenty P-47's which intercepted the flight and broke it up.
- Some planes got through, however, and attacked a group of six LST's off Cape Ward Hunt. They damaged two and killed over a hundred Australian soldiers and American sailors.
- The Japanese did not attack the jammed landing beaches at this time but returned in the evening to blow up an ammunition dump, damage two beached LCI's, and kill two men.



USS Reid (DD-369) off the Mare Island Naval Shipyard, California (USA), on 11 July 1943. She was in overhaul at Mare Island from 27 May to 16 July 1943.

